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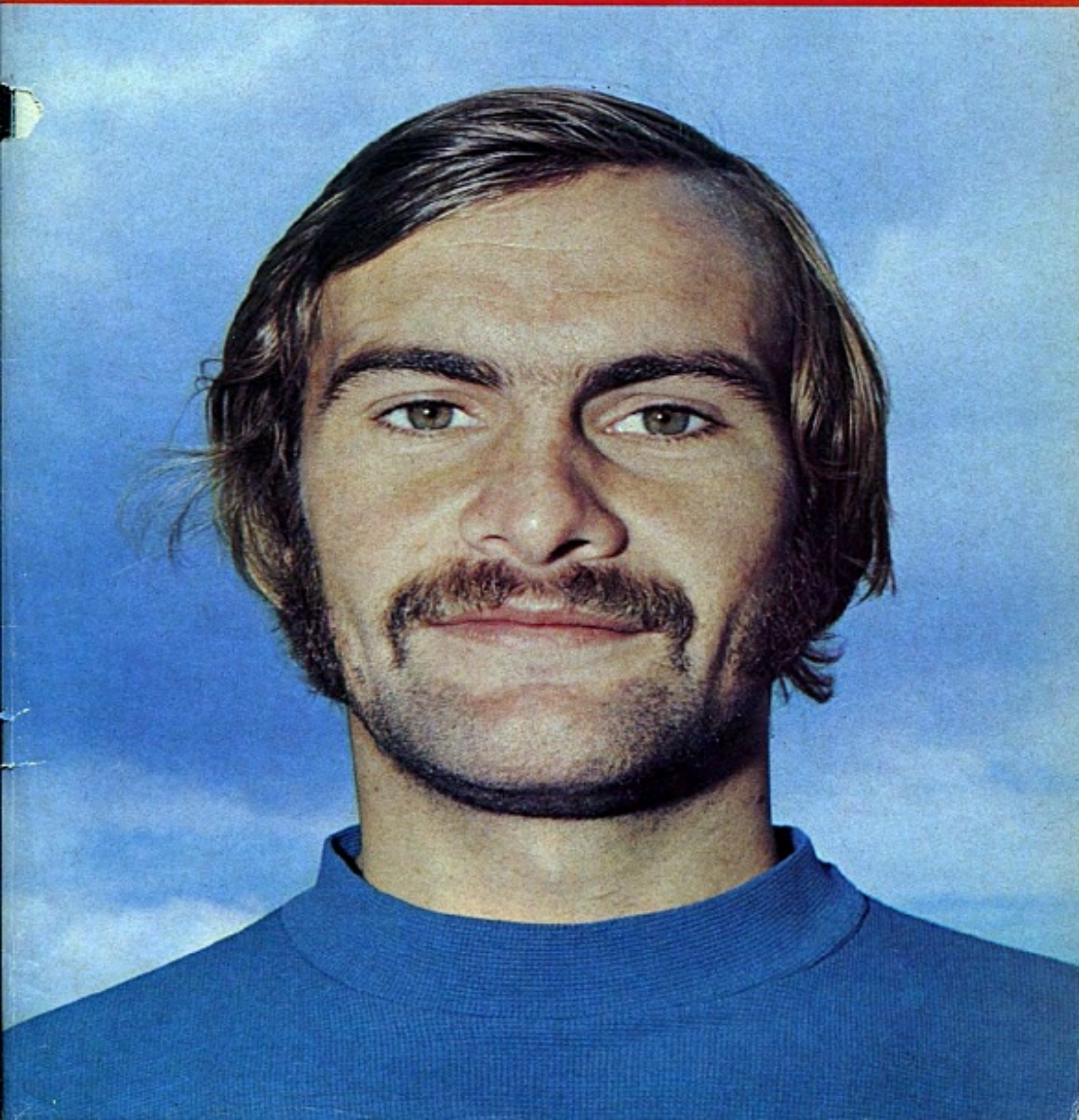

World SOCCER
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WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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Don't blame television too much

DISENCHANTMENT with professional football in England continues to grow at an alarming rate. Aggregate attendances figures for the Football League matches played this season are already over 2,000,000 down on 1971-72.

There are many reasons why people have stopped, and will continue to stop, going to football in this country. Television is taking a great deal of criticism these days, much of it unjustified. The banning of football on television, or even a severe reduction, wouldn't necessarily bring the crowds flocking back to see the game live.

All is not well with television's presentation of football. Some of the commentators and analysts, have set themselves up as demi-gods and judges of what is good or bad, right or wrong. Recently Jimmy Hill, in one of his Sunday afternoon sermons, paid one referee the compliment of stating that he didn't make one mistake during the game in question.

While I accept that Mr. Hill was endeavouring to praise the referee, who is he to adjudge how many mistakes a referee makes in a game? However, generally I find myself on the side of the TV companies. I don't think there is too much football on television.

The root cause of falling attendances, surely, is the game itself, and the discomforts encountered at almost all grounds. Travelling to a match is unpleasant, once there the amenities offered frequently border on the putrid, and the entertainment value of most games approaches the zero mark.

There is virtually no humour, no fun on the terraces these days. Watching professional football simply isn't as enjoyable as it was. If it were, the crowds would still go, and still watch the game on the box. I know many people who, after seeing a good game in the afternoon, would make damned sure they saw it again if it were televised.

Professional football should make more effort to put its own house in order and not keep putting up smoke-screens by blaming television for all the ills of the game.

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Mick Mills, the captain of the impressive Ipswich Town team, is the subject of our front cover this month. Mills has won just one England cap, against Yugoslavia at Wembley.

SANTOS ANOT NEW

No country in the world produces as many outstanding precocious young footballers as Brazil. But what happens to them? Some, like Pele, reach the very top. Others, like Coutinho, find themselves on the scrap heap at an early age. Latest in the line of successors to Pele is Baba . . . or will he too finish up on the beaches of Sao Paulo? PAUL GARDNER carried out this investigation for WORLD SOCCER.

NO doubt to most people the word Santos means simply a football club. But the town of Santos has at least one other claim to fame: it is, the inhabitants will tell you, the largest port in Brazil. No—in South America. And certainly, on one side of town, it looks it, with nothing but docks and huge warehouses cluttering the horizon. But on the other side of town it's a different world. Modern high-rise apartment houses, wide sea-front esplanades — and beautiful beaches. Which brings us back to football. Wherever there are beaches in Brazil, there are bound to be soccer games.

I was watching one of these beach games one morning last summer. A cut above average this one, with goals (no nets), some attempt to mark out boundaries, even a handful of spectators. The players included Ze Carlos and Afonsinho from the current Santos team, and a shining name from the past—Dorval, their right-winger when they won the World Cup championship in 1962 and 1963.

I started to muse about that famous front four of ten years ago. Pele, of course, is still playing. Pepe is now the manager of Santos. Dorval was here . . . but Coutinho? What had become of Coutinho? I asked one of the spectators. He looked at me curiously, then pointed to the game. "There. The one who shouts a lot. There is Coutinho. This is where he plays now."

I stayed there for another 10 minutes or so, but I wasn't really watching the game now. I watched only Coutinho. One of that long line of Brazilian youngsters who have been hailed as "the new Pele". A precocious boy of breath-taking talent who was playing on the Santos team at 15 years old. Of all the partners that Pele has had during his years at Santos, Coutinho is the one who is remembered above all others.

As I watched I was remembering what Phil Woosnam once told me about a game between Wales and Brazil in 1962: "We would have at least five defenders back, and there would be just the two of them coming at us. Pele and Coutinho. There was no way they could get through—and then, quick as lightning, tap-tap-tap, incredible wall-passes, and one of them was behind us. Jack Kelsey had to come running out to save us time and again that day."

Pele, with Nelson Luis Faria Pimmenta de Mello, better known as Baba. Picture by Paul Gardner.

A shadow

I looked for some sign of that former brilliance, but there was nothing. Coutinho was simply the player doing most of the shouting, a shadow—albeit a substantially overweight shadow—of a once great player. As I walked away from the game, I worked out that Coutinho couldn't be more than 28 years old. The most talented young player of his generation, burnt out before his skills had matured.

The Brazilian selectors have only to shake their football cornucopia and out they tumble—the Rivelinos, the Jairzinhos, the Tostaos, the Paulo Cesars and the Coutinhos — brilliant, inimitable, mature players. Well, all right, so they don't *really* come out of a cornucopia. From where, then?

One answer is to be found at the Estadio Urbano Caldeira, the rather cosy little ground (30,000 capacity) that is, theoretically, Santos' home. (In fact, they play most of their home games 68 kilometres away in Sao Paulo where the stadiums, not to mention the gate receipts, are considerably larger.)

Like most Brazilian clubs, Santos is

FIND THER PELE

Paul Gardner explains to Pele how soccer should be played and is greeted with polite amusement. Picture by Paul Gardner.

concerned with quite a few things other than football. At the stadium there is a basketball gymnasium, a cinema, bars, a restaurant, a hall with a small stage . . . and a dormitory that houses up to a dozen young men. Pele was one of these boys once, for a short while back in 1956, days when that sly line "Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele" had not yet started to appear in the world's newspapers.

These are the future Santos players—hopefully they will, like Pele, become superstars. It is too early yet to write "Nelson Luis Faria Pimmenta de Mello, better known as Baba", but the time will no doubt come. The 15-year-old Baba is rated a top prospect by the Santos club, who have already (and inevitably) hailed him as a "new Pele".

Baba was born into a football-conscious household — his father was a part-time coach—in Sa Joao de Meriti, near Rio. His first clear soccer memory is of Brazil's 1962 World Cup victory, when he asked his father for money to buy candy, but bought firecrackers instead. A year later he was trotting on to the field as the mascot of a local club, a tiny six-year-old boy dressed up in the club colours.

(To digress for a moment: those Brazilian nicknames have always intrigued me. I asked Baba: "What does Baba mean? Do you know how you got the name?" Yes," he replied. I was getting somewhere. "Because I was a small boy. There was a famous player on one of the Rio teams who was very small, and his name was Baba. So they called me Baba." So much for investigative reporting.)

Baba learnt his football where so many Brazilians do, on the beach. He just picked it up, without any formal training. A few hints from his father now and then was the extent of his coaching. He joined his first organised team when he was 11, Pavunense F.C., where he played in the *dente de leite* (milk tooth) division, for boys 11 to 14. In 1970 his team won its way through to the national *dente de leite* final, a televised game played in Sao Paulo before 20,000 fans. A black day for Pavunense—they lost 0-1. "Everyone cried," Baba recalls, smiling at the thought of it, and then, with a broad grin, "I was voted the second best player in the game, they gave me a wrist watch."

Baba was with Pavunense for three years, playing 59 games in which he scored 99 goals. His coach happened also to be a scout for Fluminense, and recommended him to the Rio club. Baba was all set to join Fluminense—in early 1971 he began practising there—when Pele entered the picture. Or rather Pele's father, Dondinho, who had once played in a team in Sao Lorenzo that was run by . . . Baba's father.

Junior team

Dondinho spoke to Olavo Martins, the coach of the Santos junior team, and Baba was snatched away from Fluminense. On May 20, 1971, just after his 14th birthday, he arrived in Santos and moved into the stadium dormitory.

The dormitory is on the first floor, under the stands behind one of the goals. It is like a wide corridor—lockers down one side, beds down the other immediately underneath windows that look out on to the street outside the stadium.

Baba is everything that spells "boy"—lively, fidgety, a mass of curly hair, a face that is forever breaking into a warm impish smile, a voice that every so often breaks into a playful squeak.

He gets up between 8 and 8.30, has breakfast at the stadium restaurant, and then goes out on to the field in sneakers for light exercises, running and some physical training until 11 or 11.30. Then lunch, again in the stadium restaurant, followed by a rest period that is usually spent in the dormitory playing cards or watching TV.

At 2 o'clock it's back to the field (this is the regular Santos pitch, there is no training field) for more training and usually a practice game that goes on until 5 or 5.30 or 6. Dinner is at 7.30, and after that Baba is free to go out for a while, provided he's back in the dormitory by 10.30.

What does he do when he goes out? "Sometimes we go to the cinema . . . and then there are the girls. Look." And Baba goes over to the window. There below is a group of young girls, four or five of them, leaning against a parked car, furtively stealing glances up at the dormitory windows. Not that Baba and his fellow junior players are in a position to do much in the way of lavish entertaining.

Most of their needs — food, lodging, laundry, medical and dental care — are paid for by the club, but anything extra has to come out of their pocket money allowance, which runs to all of $10.50 a month. Baba goes home for weekends in Rio about six times a year, with the club paying his bus fare.

Santos has four junior teams: Infantil (11-14), Infanto-juvenil (14-16), Juvenil B (16-18), and Juvenil A (18-20). Baba is playing for the infanto-juvenil side, wearing No. 9, and scoring regularly.

Next month: More about Baba's qualities and his thoughts of playing; how Brazilian youngsters learn their football; will there continue to be dozens of Babas coming through? Or will the changing social scene in Brazil alter all that? If so, what will the clubs do about it? Part two of PAUL GARDNER'S report from Brazil will appear next month, exclusively in WORLD SOCCER.

VALCAREGG
ITALIAN BA

WHILE Sir Alf Ramsey may have felt slight indignation, but more probably complete indifference, at the European team classification that placed England thirteenth on last year's performances, at least no one is calling for his head in quite the way they do in Italy. For after last month's goalless draw at home to Turkey in a World Cup qualifying tie, the Italian team manager Ferruccio Valcareggi is quite the most unpopular man in the entire peninsula.

With the Turkish goalkeeper Sabri in magnificent form, and the Italians making error after error, Turkey achieved the 0-0 draw in Naples in relative comfort. They were warmly applauded off the field, while the Italians sprinted for the dressing-rooms under a barrage of tin cans, bottles and rotten fruit.

The following day's papers reflected the mood of national indignation. The Roman daily *Messagero* said that Valcareggi had proved "he was not fit for the job. We cannot go on with Valvareggi — our national team is in terrible hands."

La Stampa of Turin headlined their story "Goodnight Valcareggi". They went on to claim that he "sat stupidly on his bench, seeing nothing of what was happening on the field, and unable to make any sensible substitutions. The result was a scandal, and it is on Valcareggi's head," *La Stampa* claimed.

The Milan journal *Corriere della Sera* described the game as a "total disaster. We had no idea how to play at all," they concluded. And another Rome paper, *Il Tempo*, said boldly that Valcareggi should be dismissed instantly, just as Edmondo Fabbri had been sacked after Italy's defeat at the hands of North Korea in the 1966 World Cup.

Giorno of Milan said that Italy were very fortunate to still be in the World Cup — they continue to lead their group—after a series of catastrophic performances.

Valcareggi, of course, can point out that he did take Italy to the final in 1970, when he was little short of a national hero. But Italian fans have notoriously short memories, and the gates of popularity seem to have been firmly shut in his face only a couple of years late.

JUST as the F.A. Cup was once stolen from a shop window in Birmingham, and never recovered—it is believed to have been melted down by the thieves, one of who confessed some fifty years later to a Sunday newspaper — now Hungary's Cup has had the same misfortune.

It was taken from a Budapest showcase owned by the government's council for sports and physical recreation, after the thieves had smashed the display window glass with a brick.

So it looks as if the Hungarian F.A. may have to provide a new trophy, some 22 years after they spent £2,000 on the original. Doubtless the loss will be acutely felt by Ferencvaros, who last summer won the competion for the eleventh time.

UEFA have rejected a protest from the same Ferencvaros following their defeat by Sparta Prague in the European Cup-winner Cup last November.

Sparta won the tie on a 4-3 aggregate, losing the first leg 2-0 and winning the second 4-1 in Prague, where a spectator threw a bottle on to the pitch just before the end of the match.

After the Coca Cola can affair involving Borussia Munchengladbach and Inter-Milan last season, there was wide speculation that Sparta might suffer a similar penalty. But UEFA, rather disengenuously, said that only one bottle was thrown *(sic)* and as it hit the pitch while the ball was not in play, and no-one was hurt, the course of the match was not influenced by the incident.

However Sparta did not escape scot-free: they were fined the maximum amount for the offence — 1,000 Swiss francs, about £110.

THE Swiss club, F.C. Zurich, had to complete the Australian part of their Far Eastern tour without one of their best players, Alfonse Buhler, because of quarantine regulations. The problem presented itself when Zurich arrived at Sidney Airport, and Buhler was found not to have a smallpox vaccination certificate.

Buhler carried an official document from the Swiss medical council, saying that he had not been vaccinated against smallpox because of the "unfortunate" side effects it had on him.

However, Australian officials were adamant that he could not be allowed into the country, and he had to stay at the North Head quarantine station until Zurich left for Singapore.

A REVOLUTIONARY move by the Russian F.A.: they have decided to abolish drawn league matches in the coming season. Easier to promise than to achieve you might think, but the F.A. have devised a drastic way of breaking the deadlock. Where a game ends in a tie, each team will take five penalties, and then another five if necessary, until a definite result is achieved.

The decision is part of a "brighter football" scheme designed to answer criticisms of dull domestic matches. Among the other moves: a complete ban on transfers and a compulsory visit to the barbers for players with long hair. Sounds just the place for Manchester United to transfer their own little revolutionary — what was his name? Ah, George Bestikov....

THE November World Cup qualifying match between Holland and Belgium is likely to be another lively affair. The match in Belgium produced no goals but plenty of bad feeling, which has spilled over with the players since then.

For instance, when the Common Market match was held at Wembley the manager of the Six team, Helmut Schoen, had the problem of fitting the players in pairs at the hotel in which the party was staying. With several Germans in the squad it was easy doubling up on them, and after he decided to put Christian Piot in with Louis Pilot and got the Dutchmen paired off, he was left with the possibility of one Dutchman, Johan Neeskens, and the Belgian, Paul Van Himst, sharing a room.

But when it was put to Van Himst, the Belgian international refused saying that since the fracas between Holland and Belgium he had not spoken to Neeskens!

TWO substitutes for League games in England and cup-ties, too. The idea seems logical enough when it falls in line with World Cup and European games, but for some of the Football League's smaller brethren the economies of the move must be viewed with alarm.

Some clubs are hard pressed to provide twelve men for a game, and now they will have to have thirteen available every week for one match.

If you take the view that any club who cannot find thirteen players for one game each week should not be

E FACES
RRAGE

ROGER MACDONALD'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

The Six team at Wembley.

in the League, then that's fine, but at a time when the game is facing its biggest crisis, the availability of extra players is unlikely to mean bigger crowds to pay the increased wages of men who will have to be considered as part of the first eleven.

NICO RIJNDERS, the Dutch born midfield player of F.C. Bruges, who collapsed with a heart attack recently and has now been lost to the active side of the game, has had the offer of a position with the club as assistant manager.

A benefit match later in the spring is being arranged to enable him to gain some financial stability now that his playing days are over, and it seems that his club are taking every opportunity of fixing him up to ensure he has few worries outside his own health.

Rijnders made his name with Ajax before moving to Belgium and was one of the most skilful schemers in the game.

IF Gerd Muller did not look quite as sharp as he normally does when he led the Six attack against the Three at Wembley in the Common Market match, it was understandable.

The previous evening he was a member of the Bayern Munich side which defeated Nuremberg in a friendly along with colleague Franz Beckenbauer. After the game the two of them snatched a few hours sleep before getting up at 4.30 in the morning to make the trip to England.

When they arrived they had a couple of hours shut-eye in their hotel before joining the rest of the party.

When they reached Wembley in the early evening, they both spent some fifteen minutes limbering up with a ball in the tunnel outside the dressing-room.

Muller played the entire game on the field, but Beckenbauer retired at half-time.

ENGLAND'S 40th World Cup match of all time is scheduled against Wales, and it is odd that it was Wales who provided the very first opposition in a World Cup qualifying match back in October, 1949, at Ninian Park.

On that occasion a hat-trick by Jackie Milburn and another goal from Stan Mortensen was sufficient to give England a handsome 4-1 victory.

Most of England's early efforts in in the World Cup ended in disappointment of course, that is until they were obliged not to qualify, and for the 1966 series as hosts England stormed to victory on their favourite Wembley turf.

The match with Wales is likely to be a formality after the 1-0 win in Cardiff last November, but Poland, the Olympic Games winners, are likely to provide much sterner opposition, and qualifying for Munich next year cannot be considered a formality.

KENYA forced their way through the second round of the World Cup preliminaries in the African Zone by defeating Mauritius. But it looked touch and go for them at one stage.

After winning the first match 3-1 they found themselves trailing 2-0 in the second match in Nairobi after the Mauritius side had scored in the 20th minute and again a minute before half-time.

But a spirited come-back in the second half saw Kenya reduce the arrears after an hour and equalise in the 70th minute.

FANCIED Egypt found themselves out of the World Cup after losing 2-0 to Tunisia in the second game of their qualifying group. Egypt had started well enough, beating the Tunisians 2-1 in Cairo but were in trouble after sixteen minutes in Tunis when Chawroun opened the scoring for the host nation.

Their slender hopes evaporated in the second half when Mohieddine made it 2-0 in the 71st minute.

But with Morocco, Guinea and the Ivory Coast in the second round along with Tunisia, the latter might find themselves eliminated, too, before long.

VIKTOR WINS PLAYERS' POLL

OMITTED from the national team several times in 1972, Dukla goalkeeper Ivo Viktor proved his popularity by winning the Czech 'Footballer of the Year award for 1972'. In second place, though by a fair margin, was Spartak Trnava stopper Vladimir Hagara with the bright young star of Tatran Presov who led the way for much of the autumn campaign third. Viktor is 30 years old and has 35 full caps while Novak is 24 and has only three full caps.

National team manager Vaclav Jezek has plenty of problems ahead in the World Cup qualifying matches against Denmark and Czechoslovakia. So, too, has his assistant Anton Malatinsky, manager of league leaders Spartak Trnava who had reached the last eight in the European Cup.

Trnava now have the invaluable services of Ladislav Kuna, who has just

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

completed six months national service, during which time he played for the Army Division II club in Slovakia, Dukla Banska Bystrica.

Both the national team and Spartak Trnava are to spend three weeks training and playing friendly games during the winter break while based at the training camp at Zeist in Holland, owned by the Dutch FA.

During the first half of the season, attendances at league matches tumbled. A survey revealed that Spartak Trnava were the best supported club with 117,000 watching their seven home league games—an average of 16,700.

Somewhat surprisingly, in second place in the attendances table are the Prague club SK Slavia who though one of the traditional giants of the past now occupy last place in the league table and are in serious danger of relegation.

Their average gate was 11,000. The biggest crowd of the autumn campaign was 35,000 for the local Slovak derby between Slovan Bratislava and Spartak Trnava.

Final game

The other Bratislava club, FC Internacional, are now in Division II but took a big step in the right direction when they beat Bohemians 1-0 before 4,500 in the final game. Ladislav Petras scored the only goal after four minutes.

This puts Inter level on points with Bohemians at the top with another Prague club Vitkovice in third place two points behind.

Plovdiv much improved...

UNDER the influence of their international star, Christo Bonev, Lokomotive Plovdiv have maintained their improved form compared with last season when they struggled for months against relegation.

Drawing 1—1 away to Yambol and beating the Sofia railway workers club Lokomotive by 5-1 (Bonev 2 and Gueeorguiev 2) they benefited when the champions CSKA crashed 2-0 away to Cernomoretz at Bourgas.

Centre forward Dremiczov, who played as a reserve for CSKA during his national service days, scored the vital first goal against his former club.

This left CSKA three points behind but with a game in hand, postponed prior to their European Cup clash with Ajax—at home to Spartak Pleven—and with Jekov marking his 301st game for the Army team with a goal CSKA won 3-1.

This cut the lead of Lokomotive Plovdiv to only one point and gives them the autumn championship shield—the first time it has ever gone to a provincial club.

BULGARIA

Two other Sofia clubs, Levski and Slavia, share third place, three points behind Lokomotive but Akademik, who were amongst the early pacemakers, dropped further behind when they were held to a 1-1 draw in the local derby against Levski after Milanov had given them the lead.

Radlev equalised with a second half penalty. Akademik then went down 2-1 away to Etar.

The first Division clubs entered the FA Cup at the 1/16th final stage and two of the senior teams were eliminated—Yambol being beaten by Division II leaders Pirin and Lokomotive Sofia being beaten by Vidin.

The next phase of the Cup will precede the resumption of league matches in March with the 16 survivors in four groups of four and the winners of each group qualifying.

With Bonev topping the goalscorers list (14 goals in 17 games) another top scorer and international star of earlier years retired at the half way mark: Dimitr Yakimov.

CSKA Sofia manager Manol Manolov.

With 60 full caps to his credit he is the first Bulgarian to be granted a benefit match which will be played in the spring—his club CSKA against a Balkans Select XI.

Little activity in the market

RUSSIA

THE end of season transfer period in Russia came and went without any major movements. The Russian authorities have stringent regulations about transfers and permit them only in extreme cases or when joining or leaving the Army.

Transfers can also be arranged between Army clubs but generally the rules limit any First Division club to three new players per year and they can only be signed from clubs in the Second Division or lower.

In Division II clubs are limited to players from junior clubs in their region and only in exceptional cases is an established player allowed to be transferred.

One of the rare occasions when a successful player did obtain a move proved to be a personal disaster. This was the case of Berador Abduraimov, who was the First Division's top scorer in 1968 with 22 league goals for Pachtakhor Taschkent.

He was persuaded to join the Army and transferred to the Moscow club ZDSKA (Central Sports Club of the Red Army). Abduraimov never settled to life in the capital, however, and he was never able to reproduce his best form for ZDSKA and finally he was transferred back to his former club who were relegated at the end of the 1971 campaign.

Everything turned out well in the end, however, for in the season just ended Pachtakhor Taschkent won promotion again after only one season in the second class and Abduraimov comes up with them.

Also promoted are Schaktjor Donezk who went down with Pachtakhor a year ago. They replace Neftschi Baku and Lokomotive Moscow who were once a power in the land but go down again after several years in Division II and only one campaign in the top class.

Clearly there is a big difference between the two divisions though the other promoted club last year Dneper (from Dneperpetrovsk) did very well to finish sixth.

Dzodzuasvili, a Russian international full-back.

STEAUA LEAD AT HALF-WAY

RUMANIA

LEAGUE leaders at the half way mark in Rumania are the Bucharest Army club Steaua (formerly CCA) which means Star. The key man in their attack, which is the heaviest scoring in the top flight, is centre forward Nastase —no relation to the tennis star—who has scored eight goals.

Their last match, away to Steagul Rosu, produced a 2-0 win with goals from Pantea and Jordanescu though Brasov missed a penalty.

One point behind are Dynamo Bucharest who beat Farul Constanza the same day by the same score: Florea 'Mops' Dumitrache, the goalgetting star in Rumania's 1970 World Cup side, scored the first goal (his seventh of the season) for Dynamo but was later sent off.

Suspended for a lengthy period not long ago, Dumitrache is likely to be seriously regarded by the disciplinary committee and without his goalscoring talents Dynamo will probably fall away if Steaua maintain their run of success.

Relegation

They were champions last time in 1968 since when they have had to rebuild their team with young players.

Also well placed are Jiul (who play at Petrosani) and Petrolul Ploesti who just escaped relegation last season by one point. They are both two points behind the Army club.

At the bottom of the table and clearly in difficulties are the two newly promoted clubs Sportul Studentesc the team of Bucharest University and just above them CSM (Resitza).

However, five teams are close at hand with only one point more than CSM including the reigning champions Argesul Pitesti, while UT Arad are only two points above the relegation pair after being champions in 1969 and 1970 and runners up last season.

Clearly the Rumanian game lacks balance which helps explain why the FA refused to extend the permit of Stefan Kovacs manager of Ajax who is due back in Bucharest to take over the national team on July 1.

PHILIP EVANS
from Italy

Pathetic display costly!

I FEEL all comment on Italy's abysmal goalless draw against the Turks should be postponed until after the second game has been played in Turkey towards the end of February. Suffice it to say that given home advantage, given the greater sophistication of Italian league football and despite the absence of Mazzola, this should have been a jog-trot for the Italians.

I was in Sicily for a few days over the New Year. So were Inter, there to play Palermo on a day of driving rain, with the famous Monte Pellegrino shrouded from view and with Inter's defence typically misanthropic. A quick wager at lunch that the score would be 0-2 came home nicely.

Overheard

On the previous day some of the Inter players had been overheard to complain at having been dragged out to Monreale for their daily training session. Boorish in view of the fact that 5,000 of the local citizenry turned out (again damp) to watch them; and particularly insensitive when stated close to Monreale Cathedral, which over the years has amazed as many people as Inter have sent to sleep.

Corso missed that game, as he did Inter's home defeat eight days later at the hands of Juventus and by the same score in the opposite direction. As I write Inter have conceded five or six goals in 13—or three games, if you see what I mean. That defence can be turned by fast running, as Rivera showed earlier in the season, and deployment of manpower rather than pace in a crisis will remain its forte.

The San Siro game was proof indeed that Juventus are putting their game together and may emerge as one of the teams who will be there at the finish—together with the Milanese. Lazio (and Chinaglia) have struggled recently; Fiorentina are staying within whistling distance. But Roma appear to have blown up emphatically, with only two points and one goal from the last four games. Fresh air around the ears being no substitute for grey matter between them, it seems.

Thankfully Cagliari managed to get a grip and pull themselves towards respectability. But for them it still remains one of those seasons during which famous heads may roll, and Gigi Riva may remain the unhappiest footballer in Italy. Gori it is who has recently been scoring the goals that matter.

On the day that Inter were dissecting Palermo, Milan were fighting against Torino for the winning goal to break a squalid stalemate. Gianni Rivera gave it to them four minutes from the end, and thereby became joint top scorer in the league this season—sad commentary indeed on the form of the vaunted strikers. He then found himself in a post-match altercation with Giagnoni. The latter claimed that the refereeing of the game had been pitiful, that Milan were the greatest team of shammers he had ever seen.

All very well, these periodical outbreaks of ire, as long as they are rightly punished with stiff fines and suspensions. But the fact is that Torino have recently been without both Sala and Bui—the one, the man who puts their game together, the other, one of those who scores important goals.

Turkish goalkeeper Sabri saves from Luigi Riva of Italy during the recent World Cup clash in Naples which ended 0–0.

Hooligans

Another recent outbreak was that of Helenio Herrera when Roma lost 2-1 to Inter at home, thanks to a last-minute penalty. Helenio voiced his distress in too obvious a manner; on came the cushions and bottles and hooligans; and the game was awarded to Inter 2-0 during the following week. That explains why Inter have conceded five or six goals, why Roma are playing a few games away from the Stadio Olimpico and why their recent form has been disappointing.

Bologna are doing well now and beat Milan at home on the day that Juventus ran around Inter. But Sampdoria and Vicenza who kept them company at the bottom of the table in November have still to fight hard for every point, and have still to discover what a goal looks like.

All in all, a fairly drab season so far, with one or two upsets that have been pleasing, and far too many games that have been predictable. Too few goals, too little imagination, too much discussion of tactical considerations, and gates impressively up on last season. Testament yet again of the power of the press at inventing drama where none exists. And testament also, perhaps, to a great talent for self-deception. Which rounds the thing off nicely by taking us back to the first paragraph.

RED STAR STILL LEAD

YUGOSLAVIA

ALTHOUGH Red Star failed to beat Tottenham by sufficient goals in the UEFA Cup second leg, they drew a 70,000 crowd in Belgrade and continue to dominate the championship race. Indeed, after the recent successes of Zeljeznicar and their neighbours FC Sarajevo in the championship, the emphasis has once more switched to the capital.

Now at the half-way mark, three Belgrade clubs occupy the top places —Crvena Zvezda (Red Star), OFK Beograd and Partizan in that order. Up amongst the challengers and at the half-way mark the only really serious challengers to Red Star are Velez, who play at Mostar.

Sixth last season, Velez have a very compact side hinging on their two recently capped forward stars—Bajevic and Vladic.

In the last eight days of the autumn campaign, Velez used up their game in hand—away to Sloboda Tuzla and called off because of the flu epidemic —and made up three points leeway on the leaders.

Red Star put up an excellent show at home to Vojvodina (Novi Sad) before less than 8,000 and, with two goals from their extremely skilful full back Petar Krivokuca, won by 3-1.

The following week, away to 1971 champions Hajduk at Split, they crashed to their second league defeat of the campaign (2-0) with Nadoveza getting the first goal. Meanwhile, Velez hammered Radnicki (Nis) who just avoided relegation last year but appear to be well out of danger this season; then beat Vojvodina 2-1 before making up their lost game away to Sloboda where they drew 0-0 in mid-week.

Velez are only one point behind Red Star with OFK and Partizan a further four points back. OFK atoned somewhat for the international club disappointments by winning 3-1 away to Beroe (Bulgaria) in the UEFA Cup. Held to 0-0 in Belgrade, they were a goal down before Zec equalised in the 70th minute. Then Santrac clinched the tie with two goals inside eight minutes.

Vardar Skoplje also recorded an international win over a Bulgarian club, beating Trakia Plovdiv 1-4 away and 4-0 at home to win the Balkan Cup. But overall, goalscorers are hard to find and in the championship three players are out on their own with 11 goals each in 17 games: Vojin Lazarevic (Red Star), Pero Nadoveza (Hajduk Split) and Slobodan Santrac (OFK).

Dragan Holcer of Hajduk and Yugoslavia.

Dresden unbeaten

EAST GERMANY

NOTHING succeeds like success and Dynamo Dresden, still unbeaten, are leading the way at the half-way mark, set to complete a league and cup double and pulling the crowds everywhere they play.

At home to Wismut Aue they drew 21,000, who saw Hans-Jurgen Kreische hit three goals in a 4-0 win before being replaced by a substitute in the 65th minute.

Pressure

Then away to FC Kal Marx Stadt, Dynamo pulled in 16,000, again the top crowd of the day. Kreische again gave the Dresden club the lead in the first half but Dorner & Co at the back had to withstand a lot of second-half pressure.

Sorge levelled the scores after only five minutes in the second half and the game hung in the balance from then on. Dynamo survived to draw 1-1 and head the table at the half-way mark, Herbstmeistar and the first league leaders since 1952 to be unbeaten at the break.

Formation

Two points away are the present cup holders and one of the pace-makers in recent years—FC Carl Zeiss Jena. Beaten only once in the opening half of the campaign the Jena club produced an unusual 1-2-4-3 formation at home to Chemie Halle who played 4-4-2, but could only draw 0-0.

They followed that with a 2-0 away win over bottom of the table FC Union Berlin with goals from Vogel and Irmscher. Apart from their goals tally, in which department Dynamo are superior, the difference between the clubs is represented by Dynamo's 3-2 home win over Carl Zeiss and with their home game to come in the second half it could be a tight finish.

1st FC Lokomotive Leipzig, who have their three strikers Lowe, Frenzel and Matoul amongst the top seven goalgetters in league matches, continue to be involved in high-scoring games.

Beaten 6-1 in Frankfurt by FC Vorwarts, they followed that with a 3-1 home win over Hansa Rostock. Vorwarts star Jurgen Noldner retired at the end of the autumn campaign after 17 years with the club and 287 league games.

Kreische tops the scorers' list with 14 goals in 13 games, followed by Lenz (Hanso) and Matoul (Lok. Leipzig) who have seven each.

U.E.F.A. STUDY EXAMINE PRO

UEFA's study group has been considering four proposals to "improve" football. First, to award an extra point to any team winning a League match by a margin of four goals or more. Second, and alternatively, to give an extra point to any winning team which scores four goals or more, irrespective of the margin of its victory. Third, to increase the size of the goals. Fourth, to extend the penalty area laterally, to each touchline, and to abolish offside, except for those players who have strayed beyond that line.

The idea of enlarging the goals has already been ridiculed in West Germany by several famous goalkeepers. The idea of thus limiting offside has been ridiculed in Italy. Not surprisingly, both ideas have found support in the United States, where football is a very shallow growth, and where there is a tendency to leap hopefully and mindlessly at new ideas.

Football's laws are not perfect, but when a game has been bowling along happily enough with them for nearly fifty years—the last major change being that in the offside law, in 1925—one must think long and carefully before tampering with them.

True, there is an increasing crisis in the world game. Attendances have dropped severely in Britain; and even in West Germany, where so much attractive, allegedly "total" football has been played over the past year. Only in Italy, despite a huge increase in the price of tickets, does all seem to be well; though this had much to do with the fact that the two Roman clubs, Roma and Lazio, have had an unusually successful season, thus drawing vast crowds to the vast Olympic Stadium.

We are told—and this is the thinking implicit in UEFA's decision to set up a study group at all—that football has become too dull and too defensive; that there are simply not enough goals, not enough attacking play. How does anybody **know?** So far as I am aware, no truly exhaustive market research has taken place anywhere. Now and again, some newspaper organises an opinion poll, on the usually narrow and inadequate basis of which we are told that certain factors are to blame; yet generally, the football authorities throughout Europe have been remarkably passive and unenterprising in looking for the roots of their problem.

Disease

Perhaps their very passivity is another symptom of the disease. Yet when in Hungary crowds at major League matches can sink to 2,000, when in the English Second Division, once so well supported, a 20,000 crowd is a rarity, when in West Germany a local derby which used to draw 40,000 fans draws 10,000, there is clearly something gravely amiss.

To what extent would these four proposed changes help the game and bring back those thousands of spectators who are, in the old saying, voting with their feet?

The idea of points for goals is an old, familiar one, which has been tried without much success in the United States' NASL championship. The trouble is that you always run the risk of devaluing the importance of a victory. Logically, if victory by a margin of four goals, or a victory in which you score four goals, is worth one bonus point, then the victory itself is surely worth more than the traditional two points. Again, there can often be far greater merit in a narrow victory than in one obtained by a wide margin; but a bonus points system takes no more account than the present, two for a win, one for a draw, system of the *quality* of a win.

Proposals

The founding fathers of League football were, I think, right to refuse to differentiate between wins at home and wins away, between narrow wins and easy victories, obviously—and correctly—reckoning that in the long run, such things balanced themselves out. Behind the proposals which the UEFA study group are now considering lies the belief, or perhaps one should say the hope, that teams would be encouraged to attack. But would they?

This season, in the Italian Championship, Atalanta were rash enough to play an open, attacking game against Milan, and were rewarded by a 9-3 defeat; the highest aggregate score recorded in the history of the Italian League! What possible object could they have, no matter how many bonus points were offered for a four goal victory, in using the same tactics, were the match to be replayed?

The best they could possibly hope for would be a draw. By the same token, would Milan really have merited a bonus

A recent Everton signing, Joe Harper, is pictured challenging Tottenham goalkeeper Pat Jennings. Harper proved a prolific goalscorer in Scottish football and Everton hope that he will boost their fortunes in the Football League.

DY GROUP ROPOSALS

point for winning so easily against what, on the day, was certainly very weak opposition? A 9-3 win against Juventus or Internazionale would be a different matter.

Weaker teams playing away from home will continue to adopt cautious tactics, no matter how many bonus points you dangle in front of their nose; and it is these teams which largely set the defensive pattern in League football.

Suggestion

To increase the size of the goal seems to me an imbecilic suggestion. I heard it for the first time from a well-meaning English referee in the dressing-rooms at Yankee Stadium; his thinking was that since human beings had become larger, then goals, too, should become proportionately larger. The fallacy behind such thinking is that it rests on the belief that more goals are a valid end in themselves.

Twenty years ago, when Walter Winterbottom was manager of the England team, I remember him cogently pointing out to me that the very difficulty of scoring a goal was one of the essential features of soccer; as opposed to a sport like basketball, where scoring points was easy. Cheapen the scoring of goals, and you have taken something vital away from the game. Besides, a fan goes above all to see his team win, and he would far rather see them win 1-0, even draw 0-0, than lose 5-4 or 4-3.

Defensive

Defence, in any case, is an essential part of football. The game is not merely about goals, but about avoiding them; and in any case, it is perfectly clear by now that the pendulum has swung away from defensive football. Why even Helenio Herrera, the old high priest of **catenaccio** and the breakaway, has now come around to his own version of total football, with Roma, allowing his sweeper, Santarini, to move upfield.

Changing and vitiating the offside law has also been tried, in such competitions as the Anglo-Italian tournament and the pre-season Watney Cup. It has not worked; partly, no doubt, because it was difficult for players to adjust to it, the more so as they knew they would quickly have to readjust to the prevailing law as soon as the competitions were over.

Offside, however, is another essential feature of soccer. Do away with it entirely, and you force teams to commit more men to defence, defenders themselves to play deeper. It is still arguable that football was quite wrong to change the offside law in 1925, reducing the number of players you needed to keep you onside from three to two. After all, the law had worked perfectly well for years. The football authorities simply panicked; and once the dust had settled, the new law had been properly digested, football simply became more defensive than ever.

Malaise

I think our present football authorities are less prone to panic. I also believe that the malaise of the game today—at least so far as professional football and spectators are concerned—has causes which go far beyond the mere rules of soccer; the mere fact that not "enough" goals are being scored. Who, after all, is to say that in this endlessly changing world, pro soccer is a phenomenon that must be with us forever?

No attendance problems at Anfield, where Liverpool march on. And no wonder, with players like Kevin Keegan in such fine form. Keegan is pictured playing in Athens against AEK.

Luxemburg championship resumes after winter break

THE Luxemburg championship resumed after the winter pause with league leaders Jeunesse D'Esch defeating Aris 4-1 at home and Avenir Beggen 2-1 away. Their five-point lead after 14 matches with only eight to go looks good enough to give them the title.

Exiled international Louis Pilot who was the only Luxemburger to be selected for the Common Market match at Wembley had the honour of walking on the pitch at least. He was one of only two substitutes not used and when late in the match was asked if he wanted to go on by trainer Helmut Schoen decided not to bother.

But it would have been an occasion for the 32-year-old Royal Antwerp midfield player to remember.

News from France by ANDRE DUCLOS

Initiative, diplomacy lacking in the recent strike...

THE structural weaknesses of French football were badly shown up by the recent strike trouble and its unhappy aftermath. Now we are well distant from it all it is clear that a sad lack of initiative and diplomacy was shown by almost all parties. What precipated the strike, spotty as it was, was the intransigent behaviour of the Lyon club, who suspended those of their players who attended a meeting of the players' union against their orders. They sparsely sugared the pill by alleging that they had dropped their footballers on the grounds (grounds!) that they would not be fully fit, but that deceived nobody.

Since the ranks of the players themselves were so badly divided, there was every opportunity for conciliation, but the French Groupement, or League, was divided, and the French Federation, in the process of electing a new President, was in no position to intervene as it should. There were those, however, who said that nothing in the past record of the outgoing President, M. Georges, suggested that he would have made an effective intervention, even had the circumstances been different.

Full strength

The backlog and backwash was the vexed matter of which of those matches that were actually played should be allowed to stand. In a couple of cases, full strength teams had met. In the most farcical of all, Paris FC had, for reasons best known to themselves, put out a junior team against the full strength Metz side and lost 11-1 at home. The Groupement allowed the games played between full strength teams to stand and struck out the rest; which provoked the resignation of the President of Monaco of the Second Division—a team almost sure to go up this season, with Pastoriza and all—and a threat to dissolve the club, dispersing its players.

French football just isn't in a strong enough position to withstand such upheavals. The whole question of the limited time contract continues to torment it, and things have not been made better by the pitiful lack of success of French clubs in Europe this season. Things did, it is true, begin to look better after the victory at Parc des Princes over Russia, but then came the defeat in Eire, and back we went again, almost to square one. Next May comes the visit to Moscow, where not even Napoleon could win. Georges Boulogne, the national team manager, is keeping a stiff upper lip about it; but who can be truly optimistic?

Sharply critical

The League is wide open. The improvement of Rennes and Nantes has prevented the Southern monopoly from taking command. As we know, Olympique Marseilles this season have been an in and out side, even though they have now added the two fine players Salif Keita and Marius Trésor—picked for the Common Market party at Wembley in January—to the side. Jean Snella's Nice may have produced the Player of the Mid-Season in the blond Swedish inside-forward, Leif Eriksson, but they have had some worrying setbacks.

Marseilles, meanwhile, may be wondering just how wise they were to sell the now much travelled, former Bordeaux centre-forward Couécou to Nantes, in whose improved team his finishing is playing a considerable part. At Marseilles he was never really more than a reserve de luxe. That team still lacks something; which briefly included Keita, suspended for his obscene gesture at his former club President, Roger Rocher of St. Etienne, after he had scored two goals against them on his debut for Marseilles.

Talking of Marseilles, and the problems of French football, few have been more sharply critical than Gilbert Gress, the mid-field player, once a French international outside-right, who came to Marseilles from VfB Stuttgart in the *Bundesliga*. Gress has not had a happy season, despite his much broadcast admiration for German football, and the fact that the new Olympique Marseille team manager is the West German, Kurt Linder.

His contract binds him to Marseille till 1975, with a get-out in June, 1973, which seems very likely to be exploited; even if the new President of Stuttgart says he does not intend to re-purchase Gress. He scoffs at any suggestion that a kind of "German Clan" has been established at Marseilles; reasonably enough, when one considers he has so often recently been twelfth man.

The Marseille crowd, alas, have taken against him. "Every time I get the ball," he says, "there are 40,000 imbeciles who systematically whistle me; 2,000 others are quiet or applaud me, because they understand what I'm trying to do. In general, the French spectators ought to take a course abroad to perfect their knowledge. They would see what the truth is, what I am trying to achieve."

Breast-beating

He recalls that ten years ago, when he was playing for Strasbourg, he used to watch *Bundesliga* matches on the television. He noticed that the Germans didn't bother with refinements, they made no great impression on him, "yet each time we played against them, we were beaten". He seems to have immense contempt for the French school, with its intricacies.

After the defeat in Dublin, when everyone was attributing the result to the Irish fire, one critic coolly pointed out that it was not only that which was lacking to our team, but also a lack of sophisticated control of the ball. Certainly this is a moment for breast beating; but French football is a little bit like the novel or the theatre; it is always, allegedly, dying.

Gress insists that he himself is misunderstood, and quotes a friend, a dentist, who returned from the United States: "There too it's efficacity that counts. I understand you. I understand your problem." Yet for all that, Gress insists that he is "very, very happy". Perhaps there is a moral there, of some relevance to French football at large.

JOHN SPARROW reports from Holland

WHO WILL TAKE OVER FROM KOVACS?

THE news came as no surprise. Stefan Kovacs, Ajax trainer of two seasons, would have to quit when his contract ran out on June 1. Reason: failure to lengthen the two-year visa granted him by the authorities in his native Rumania.

For the second time within a year, Dutch soccer has fallen victim to the iron grip East European countries jealously apply to their top talent. The first to be pulled back was FC Den Haag trainer Vaclev Jezek—as I reported in WORLD SOCCER in June. Then it was the Czech authorities with whom Den Haag fought commendably even to the extent of seeking help from the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

The Jezek case prompted immediate speculation on how the friendly little Kovacs would fare when he tackled the Rumanians. In the event Kovacs left for home with far less optimism than Jezek did en route to bid for a visa extension. And within days of his departure the refusal was made public. The Rumanians had good reason to dispense with any haggling—Kovacs was earmarked for a key post, Director of the Rumanian Football Union. As such he will be responsible for supervision of all the Rumanian teams.

Without doubt the disturbing Jezek affair left Ajax officials with little hope for Kovacs and one felt the club was almost counting on his departure. Assistant trainer Bob Haarms was being well worked in to take over the reins temporarily if Ajax was left trainerless for a while.

Club president, Jaap van Praag, had obviously determined not to be left in the position he was two years ago when Rinus Michels upped and left overnight for Barcelona. If Kovacs had to leave and no one was found straight away, Bob Haarms would be able to hold the fort for six months or so.

Applications

While Haarms was being worked in, applications were arriving from potential aspirants to Kovacs' job—before the visa refusal was announced. To me there was nothing sinister about either. Ajax were using plain common sense with Haarms and the applications were from wide-awake trainers anxious to get in first. After all the doubts over Kovacs' future were no secret and well founded.

Nevertheless, Dutch newspapers read more into it. The Haarms manoeuvre, one said, gave the impression Ajax had no intention of keeing Kovacs anyway when his contract ran out. As for the applications flowing in while Jaap van Praag was still officially waiting for Rumania's decision, this merely encouraged the newspaper speculation. One leading daily commented: "... Ajax was not really thinking of renewing the Kovacs contract. The fact that Kovacs has a job in Rumania is the nicest solution. Ajax got what it wanted without hurting anyone."

A nice story—and who knows it might be near the truth—but to date no facts can be found to back it up. True Kovacs ran into trouble soon after he arrived because of his liberal attitude with players. But he overcame opposition and took Ajax to every possible title: the European Cup, Dutch premier division title, Dutch FA Cup and the so-called World Club championship.

Physical strain

The team has faltered this season, but sheer physical strain and injury account for much of that. By the Christmas break Ajax stood second in the league table, two points behind Feyenoord and three ahead of Sparta. Having lost to Feyenoord and middle of the road NAC earlier in the season, Ajax had gone on to lose 3-1 to Sparta. And to cap it all, NAC nobbled the champions for the second time by sending them out of the Dutch FA Cup on penalty shots after a 2-2 draw. The line-up spoke for a lot—Keizer (banned) and Cruyff (injured) out, Swart and Stuy out rested.

It was announced, shortly before WORLD SOCCER went to press, that Georg Knobel, trainer of MVV Maastricht, had been appointed trainer of Ajax in succession to Stefan Kovacs. Knobel did not apply for the job. He was chosen by Ajax. MVV was his first big club, and he brought them from a lowly position to one among the top Dutch clubs. He is a Dutch national, joined MVV in 1969 and helped make Willie Brokamp into a Dutch international. Said Brokamp: "I have everything to thank this man for. He made our club what it is."

'He overcame opposition and took Ajax to every possible title including the European Cup'

But what of a successor to Kovacs? At the time of writing the question was still open, although van Praag did narrow the field for speculators. An obvious name would been that of Georg Kessler, late of Anderlecht, but van Praag dismissed him from the running at the outset. Out too was any thought of Weisweiler with the news that he had settled his differences with Borussia Monchengladbach.

Charming man

Announced van Praag: Stefan Kovacs was a charming man an an expert. We are very sad he has to leave. The man we need to follow him is not among the initial applicants."

Then a new name cropped up—Frank O'Farrell. The story reached Holland via the British pruss. *The Sun* declared O'Farrell was on the list and his only opponents were Ferenc Puskas and Vic Buckingham. Van Praag confirmed O'Farrell was one of the applicants but ruled out the rest of *The Sun* report: "Paskas has not applied and we would not even consider Buckingham," he said.

A rumour that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid are making van Praag an offer he cannot refuse is being investigated.

Review of the 1972 international cale

England hard t but is that eno

AS in past years, it is extremely difficult to obtain comparative statistics and to get into the correct perpective the relative performances of the various national teams. One thing, however, stands out this year — that the school of thought which argues that "winning is all that matters" cannot have it both ways.

I have always leaned towards the view that there is much more in football besides winning and losing, that getting the ball in the net is the only thing that counts. Of course, goals count and results are important but so too is the style of play, the skill and flair that characterises a team by its presence or its absence.

The results of 1972 place England well down the list, and though I do not often find myself on common ground with die-hard England supporters, it is clear that in 1972 England were not as bad as her results suggested by comparison with other teams. For example, to suggest that England really are to be rated only 18th in the world would be totally misleading. One thing, however, should be remembered — if we move England up a few places this year because of certain factors then we must also take these other factors into account when England's results suggest they are once more the best in the world.

Superb success

To stay with England a little longer, I have no doubt that but for the quarter-final draw pairing, England with West Germany, England would have reached the semi-finals and possibly the final of the European championship. As it was, however, no one could begrudge the Germans their superb success at Wembley, but it would be foolish to rate Hungary or perhaps even Belgium and the USSR as necessarily better than England. I am quite sure that had England's quarter-final opponents been Hungary or Rumania they would certainly have reached the last four. Had they been drawn against Italy, Yugoslavia, Belgium or the USSR they could have qualified.

I am equally sure, however, that England were bound to be defeated by West Germany whenever they came across them in the competition. Only an atrociously bad off-day on the German part could have seen England beat them. Right now, just as in the spring of 1972, the West Germans are quite the best team in the world and probably the best team world football has seen at international level since the great Hungarians of the fifties.

England's true position in Europe is somewhat difficult to assess though I would personally place them in the *difficult-to-beat category* rather than *a team to copy or follow*. In this latter class one can only place the West Germans who with Beckenbauer, Netzer and Müller and two real, penetrative wingers set an example for all the world to follow. This is the kind of football that should, one hopes, dominate the seventies.

Economic support

Of the other teams that did well in 1972, I have very many reservations not least about the Belgians and the Dutch. The prowess of Ajax and Feyenoord has been clear for some time and it was to be expected that when the Royal Dutch FA whipped up economic support from industry to offer their players some £8,000 a man if they reproduced their club form for Nederland and qualified for the next World Cup that the effort would be made.

However, it now seems that the Dutchmen's runaway victory over Norway was something of a flash in the pan, for on the evidence of what I saw in the Belgium-Holland qualifying game in Antwerp the Dutch still lack a great deal at international level.

The Belgians, too, have been on the periphery of top class for some time with club sides like Standard-Liege, Anderlecht and FC Bruges leading the way. But unlike the Germans, who allow foreigners to play in their *Bundesliga*, many of the key men in the top Belgian teams are foreigners. In addition, under the guidance of their national coach Raymond Goethals, they have tended towards the get-stuck-in and work-rate type of game.

Brazil also have good figures for 1972 but all their games were played in South America where they are always to be

England versus Wales at Cardiff . . . Keegan of England (extreme left) attacks the Welsh goal.

calendar by ERIC BATTY

d to beat enough?

seen at their best. They are, I am sure, nothing like as good as they were in Mexico in 1970 and their figures for 1973 when they tour North Africa and Europe in June and July will certainly reflect this and the fact that they are never at their best in Europe.

Portugal did well and Spain were unbeaten during the period under review but I have doubts about their standards. Under Jose Augusto and Ladislav Kubala respectively, they have shown improvement but they both lack real class stars to crown what is basically good football playing sides. Portugal did very well to reach the final of the Mini-Cup but, like Spain, the standard of the opposition they met was not always of the best quality. I have no doubt they would be beaten by West Germany and perhaps by Holland and Belgium, while they would find England very difficult to beat.

Poland's figures appear very slim though all Olympic Games matches have been excluded from my figures because of the variable quality of the teams taking part. But in a year when the Poles took the Olympic Gold for soccer and were unbeaten in what I regard as full internationals, they have clearly joined the leading countries after many years of *almost* making the big time. Since Ernst Pohl first showed his considerable talents in the international arena and for Gornik Zabrze, the game in Poland has flattered only to deceive.

Talented players

For some years past they have emphasised their improvement with good showings against second-class soccer countries like Finland, Luxembourg and Norway, often running up big scores, yet failed to convince when their paths crossed with the British sides, the Germans or Italians. Now, however, with the Olympics Gold to strengthen their confidence and a firmly-based defence they have two very talented players in Deyna and Lubanski.

For further progress they must, I feel, maintain their present momentum and seek to develop even more skilful and penetrative wingers. Even so, on their showing in 1972 and remembering that they drew 0-0 at Liverpool the last time they met England, I expect them to acquit themselves well in the World Cup qualifying matches. It would be quite typical, however, if the Poles held their own in their two matches against England but failed to qualify because they dropped a vital point away to Wales.

English-based

Elsewhere in Britain, the Scots have been on the upgrade while Wales have tumbled and finally joined the minnows like Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg. Yet even the Welsh side is not as poor as their results suggest. Northern Ireland, bearing in mind the daily problems they face right now, are doing well just to keep the game going but as always, and like the Republic of Ireland, they lack top quality forward stars and cannot rely on the availability of their English-based players.

Amongst the other countries, East Germany do, I feel, deserve a creditable mention as do Austria, though they are also dependent on obtaining the release of their best players who have gone abroad to play professionally. France occupy a far higher place than their football deserves as do Mexico, who met only Canada and very poor Central American opposition during 1972, while Chile, Paraguay and even Argentina with all her fine players would have very different figures (like Brazil) if they had played half-a-dozen games in Europe.

					Goals		%
West Germany	7	6	1	0	19	4	92.8
Holland	5	4	1	0	19	1	90.0
Brazil	5	4	1	0	8	2	90.0
Portugal	10	8	1	1	22	5	85.0
Poland	3	2	1	0	5	1	83.3
Belgium	8	5	2	1	15	4	75.0
Spain	6	3	3	0	7	3	75.0
Chile	4	3	0	1	7	7	75.0
East Germany	5	3	1	1	10	3	70.0
France	8	5	1	2	15	7	68.7
Scotland	9	5	2	2	13	5	66.6
Austria	6	3	2	1	11	5	66.6
Mexico	6	4	0	2	10	7	66.6
Argentina	10	6	1	3	20	9	65.0
Yugoslavia	14	6	5	3	28	20	60.7
Bulgaria	5	2	2	1	9	3	60.0
Paraguay	5	3	0	2	14	7	60.0
England	7	3	2	2	7	5	57.1
Russia	14	6	4	5	17	17	57.1
Sweden	8	3	3	2	18	10	56.2
Rumania	8	2	5	1	13	10	56.2
Italy	8	2	4	2	13	9	50.0
Eire	6	3	0	3	10	10	50.0
Greece	5	2	1	2	3	10	50.0
Czechoslovakia	9	3	2	4	13	11	44.4
Denmark	6	2	1	3	10	11	41.6
Finland	6	1	3	2	3	10	41.6
Hungary	10	2	4	4	11	12	40.0
Switzerland	5	0	4	1	3	7	40.0
N. Ireland	5	1	2	2	2	6	40.0
Turkey	3	1	0	2	3	3	33.3
Peru	10	3	0	7	9	16	30.0
Uruguay	7	1	2	4	2	6	28.5
Luxembourg	4	1	0	3	2	13	25.0
Norway	7	1	1	5	6	18	21.4
Wales	4	0	1	3	0	5	12.5
Albania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Iceland	4	0	0	4	3	17	0
Cyprus	3	0	0	3	0	9	0
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	17	0

Full list of 1972 results can be found on page 49.

Formula for success

Of those countries who should be elevated a little I think the Yugoslavs should be rated higher, as should England, Bulgaria and Rumania. Many of the East Europeans are at present re-thinking their playing policies in the light of developments in West Germany and are currently caught, I think, reflecting the post-1966 formula for success which was based on near 100 per cent physical condition, basic but limited skill and a lot of running around from all concerned.

I would expect both Bulgaria and Rumania to improve once they have readjusted themselves, though the problems within the Russian game go deeper. It seems to me that like the Italians, the Russians would like to play real football but do not know how and cannot find the players they need. Russia, like England, need above all real wingers (two, not one) and though they probably exist in both countries I doubt if either will change until their present policies have been even further discredited.

ERIC THORNTON traces the progress of a youngster earning rave reviews in the Principality

Wrexham nurse new Welsh hope

ONCE more a Welsh discovery is threatening to go right to the top. That's the unanimous verdict of everybody in the Principality who has had the good fortune to see the boy I'm going to tell you about.

Unknown to anyone except just a few close friends, at this time last year, he is now hall-marked as a wonder starlet who has been told that the sky should be the limit for future ambitions.

It's only a mere three months ago since the date of the league debut, yet already he has attracted many of the wealthy buying clubs, and over the turn of the year offers have been rising steadily—from £20,000 to £30,000, and £40,000 and so on.

Born just inside the northern borders, between Queensferry and Connah's Quay, the new boy has additionally won unusual grading by serving an apprenticeship in the same Denbighshire countryside as one of his country's greatest soccer sons.

David Smallman is the name this time. And the club which has been nursing him is Wrexham, whose Racecourse headquarters are only a handful of miles from Chirk, the village birthplace of the one-and-only and legendary Billy Meredith.

I'm not suggesting that this teenager is going to eventually rank alongside William M, but if present progress is maintained he shouldn't be far behind in ability within another year or two.

Let's look at him. First learning the A-B-C of the game with home-town club Shotton Westminster, in North Wales junior circles, a natural flair and tremendous calmness under pressure gradually caught the attention of the scouts who roam the coast grounds each winter.

Coaching

Wrexham were first in. They arranged a private talk, explained the prospects in a football career, then offered a place on the ground staff which provided the necessary free time for daily coaching in all the arts and graces.

John Neal, a manager of experience and dedication, certainly watched the pupil while moving him through the reserve line-ups in a two-year spell of discovering the best positions, then handed out a first-team spot.

The boy came off. He was an immediate success. No one unaware of the facts would have guessed it was young Smallman's first taste of the real stuff as he fought for possession, and ran well both on and off the ball.

The goals which count began coming along. Five arrived almost simultaneously in one series of four successive games, and altogether he hit eight in his first 14 Third Division fixtures.

Possessing similar build and appearance to George you-know-who—though not boasting of similar Prima Donna performances!—he is particularly smart at sneaking up on the blind side, and, in addition, whips home the loose ball with efficiency and great glee.

When the 18-year-old had reached double figures in the scoring chart, Mr. Neal smiled happily. He could afford to with such a great prospect attracting not only the crowds which boosted the 'gate' receipts, but also the bidders.

Ability

Yet the boss commented afterwards in this wise fashion: "There is no time for sitting on your laurels in this game, so the boy has to keep on playing well and scoring to provide further proof of ability."

The fans soon recognised that David's future might lie elsewhere, as they have always done when other extra talented boys have been recruited to the staff, but it hurts to know that it's so difficult keeping the best.

But what can a club do when it has an overdraft of £35,000, cannot live on present support, and is tempted with cheques which would add a better touch to everything?

Wrexham have never made much money out of the transfer market. In fact, they broke all previous records when receiving £26,000 from Liverpool for fullbacks Stuart Mason and Peter Wall.

Smallman's transfer value puts that figure in the shade, a point with which Manchester United, Coventry City, Everton, and Derby County are no doubt all agreed. . . .

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West German newsletter from ARTHUR ROTMIL

CUP WILL SHORTEN BREAK FOR TOP CLUBS

THE only professional League in Germany—the 18-team Bundesliga—has granted its members a five-day break from December 16 till January 20. But the Cup programme has shortened this pause by a few days. And if the German footballers are now envied their "rest", then it must be pointed out that their summer break lasts barely a few weeks, and that most clubs have fixed up friendlies, some of them overseas, to keep their charges in peak condition but also to earn some money!

At the half way stage of the battle for honours, the defending champions Bayern Munich held a two-point lead over the hitherto unfashionable Fortuna Düsseldorf. They in turn had opened a gap of four points, being trailed by the newly-promoted Wuppertaler SV, VfB Stuttgart and the erratic Cologne, all jointly occupying third place.

The widely expressed fears that Bayern would march unchallenged toward the title and thus rob the whole campaign of excitement, have for the time being at any rate proved premature. Bayern's occasional lapses—they lost three out of 17 games—have, paradoxically, helped not only to sustain interest in the second half of the season, but will no doubt contribute to better gates in Munich, especially at matches against their immediate rivals.

Punished

Attendance figures, and specifically receipts, are now very much in the news in this country. The unfinished stores of briberies, continuing like some horror serial, have had a far reaching effect on the attitude of many fans toward professional football. The sinister shadows still hanging over five players from Cup holders Schalke, further charges against men already tried and punished before, as well as the endless proceedings against Rotweiss Oberhausen, are hardly likely to appease the soccer followers, thoroughly disenchanted with the unsavoury events in the *Bundesliga*.

The severe decision of the DFB to punish Oberhausen with the deduction of five points, at the end of the season, for their part in the corruption scandal has now been overruled by an independent court consisting of three legal judges. They decided that this penalty was too harsh and practically amounted to "relegation in instalments". Now the DFB, fearing for their prestige and authority, will lodge a protest, whilst the chief prosecutor, Hans Kindermann, is already sharpening his knives—sorry, pencils—to bring new charges against Oberhausen!

But what is upsetting the public even more, are the threats by those accused of manipulation, who imply that in the event of being convicted they will "unload the dirty linen and involve many others". Some of these wild statements may be without foundation, but in such an atmosphere of malice, gossip and suspicion it is a wonder that thousands of fans are still flocking to watch *Bundesliga* games.

Meantime, the 18 clubs have a collective debt of roughly 2½ million pounds. Only Bayern and Fortuna Düsseldorf are currently showing a working profit. VfL Bochum, Wuppertaler SV and Borussia Mönchengladbach are breaking even. Of the remainder, Hamburger SV and Eintracht Frankfurt are very badly hit, but the worst debts have afflicted Hertha Berlin who are apparently £750,000 in the red! Hertha, who not so long ago were pulling in 80,000 crowds into the Olympic stadium, have been the worst hit over the bribery affair and are now threatened with oblivion.

Reputation

Bayern on the other hand are now averaging 40,942 spectators per match, and their receipts from eight home games have grossed a cool £420,000! Their popularity remains undiminished, their reputation untarnished and their stars are in demand all over the country.

The year of 1972 was a tremendous one for German football, culminating in winning the European Championship. The standing of German star players has never been higher, as was illustrated in the "European Footballer of the Year" poll conducted by the weekly *France Football* and rated the most comprehensive of its kind in Europe. The first three places were filled by Germans: Beckenbauer, just ahead of Gerd Müller and Günter Netzer jointly in second place. No other country has ever achieved such a decisive clean sweep of the "medal" rankings.

That redoubtable goalgetter Gerd Müller has just been voted the most popular sportsman in Germany . . . 26 per cent of the votes went to Müller, 24 per cent to his team mate Franz Beckenbauer and 18 per cent to Heide Rosendahl. They were followed by Josef Neckermann (dressage), Ulrike Meyfarth (athletics) and Günter Netzer. Asked why he thought that Heide Rosendahl came "only" third, despite winning two gold medals and one silver at the Olympics, Müller said: "People forget easily and that was my advantage. We footballers have Olympic Games every Saturday"!

Equipment

A number of German stars are wisely investing their money for the proverbial "rainy day", when their careers are over. The already retired Uwe Seeler lives in a ten-room house, he owns a holiday home, a block of flats in Hamburg and rents a petrol station, as well as 24 garages! On top of that, he is the representative of the sports equipment firm "Adidas", for North Germany.

Beckenbauer runs an insurance agency, which, incidentally, was his profession before paid football was introduced in Germany, a few years ago. Netzer owns a discotheque, and a restaurant in Mönchengladbach. He is also part-proprietor of a sanatorium (!) and an advertising agency. Netzer publishes his club's magazine "Fohlen-Echo", lends his name to the sports products company "Puma", and also own a block of apartments!

MOROCCO L
FOR MANA

SABINO BARINAGA, the well-known Spanish Manager, who was coached at Southampton by Tom Parker, took Morocco to the World Cup in 1966 and to the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, is to leave Morocco it was revealed by King Hassan at a banquet given in Barinaga's honour.

In the middle of hours of speeches came an announcement that surprised most people present, his Majesty asked Barinaga to name his successor as National Manager of the top Army team "FAR".

Anyone who is interested need only write to Barinaga or the King in Rabat. "It's a valuable position financially," says Barinaga "and the King's word and power is entirely behind the manager. If you're called to Morocco, take the first plane, you won't need any clothes or documents, I had none when I arrived in Rabat."

Barinaga is leaving Morocco solely for family reasons, he has been abroad now for several years and thinks it is unfair for his growing children to be without a father.

"I am almost a nomad, for in the last few years I have been in Osasuna, Malaga, Berlin, Oviedo, Valencia, Seville, Nigeria, Mallorca and Morocco . . . everywhere except my hometown Madrid. In many of these places life is brightened up by a few revolutions, but that's all part of the job. I've experienced three during by stays in foreign countries."

Mendoza wins his battle

JORGE ALBERTO MENDOZA, the famous Atletico Madrid inside forward, has gained another step in the fight for human rights the players in Spain are waging against the clubs. Led by Calleja, the former Atletico Madrid captain and lawyer, Mendoza won from the Supreme Court in Madrid a decision that may affect footballers in every part of the world.

In 1969 Mendoza signed a one year contract with Real Mallorca for 1,000,000 ptas, which he was to receive immediately, together with 12,000 ptas. monthly salary, plus 110,000 ptas. for travelling expenses.

Owing to a serious injury and major surgery, which resulted in him having to retire after only minutes of play, and his religious beliefs as a Jehovah Witness, he asked to be released from his contract and offered to forego half of the sum due to him in order to "buy" out his contract. But the club, saying that he had absented himself without permission, denied responsibility of paying the 1,715,000 ptas. Mendoza claimed was due to him, and insisted on a further 500,000 ptas. to release him from his contract . . . making a total of 2,215,000 ptas.!

After three years he has won an appeal in Madrid overruling the Majorcan Magistrate's decision, and his claim for 1,715,000 ptas. is valid, as it was declared that footballers and spectaculars are active workers and under the jurisdiction of labour.

Majorcan supporters are a little disbelieving that Mendoza should draw approximately £12,000 for 12 minutes work.

This is the third important case Calleja has won in the Courts of Madrid in his campaign for human and laboral rights of footballers.

Last year he gained the right of no games on Christmas Day.

Spain's mystery weapon

BILLY BINGHAM, the English Manager of the Greek National side, was truculently confident when he saw Barcelona beat Real Madrid 1-0 in December. He even picked as the most outstanding player one who Kubala has not yet called . . . he is holding him back as a mystery weapon.

I mean Real Madrid's 18-year-old bustling centre-forward and leading goalscorer, Santillana.

This youngster is really something and is quickly confirming Don Santiago Bernabeu's opinion: "If left alone by the Press, this boy will be another Di Stefano."

The most important game of Spain in 1972 was the 25th Anniversary match which celebrated the opening of the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, and was given to Gento as a retirement benefit.

The match, which we were told would include the most distinguished players of all time, was a success, in spite of the lack of distinguished names in the actual match. One can't help wondering why the organisers didn't include some of Real's really great names . . . Rial, Di Stefano, Joseito and Santamaria were in the ground and could have played. They all keep fit with the teams they are managing, and play for the Old Glories.

Another first for Real

REAL MADRID have just installed an electric scoreboard, the first in Spain.

It's very much like the version at the Munich Olympics with the names of each player, their numbers, scorers and times when the goals are scored.

There is also an electric clock, which according to Spanish regulations is illegal and should not be there. No one seems to worry though . . . it's Real Madrid!

At the end of last season another great Real Madrid player was due to follow Gento and Betancort into retirement. (Not Amancio . .. he's going next year).

IGNACIO ZOCO was expected to leave with Gento, but has stayed with the club without a contract because he feels they might need his services some time this season. He also had hopes that he himself would win another European Cup medal to pair with the one he gained against Partizan.

Aged 33, Zoco is rarely seen in goal scoring charts although his moments of success are most important to the team. He scored the last-second goal that took Chelsea to a second game in the final of the Cup Winners Cup in 1971 and the equalising goal against Manchester United in the vital European Cup semi-final in 1968.

OOK
AGER

Twenty-five years ago, Belenenses Lisbon played the inauguration match of the new Stadium. Madrid won 3-1, and Sabino Barinaga scored the first goal. It was the first of 2,971 that have been scored in the last quarer of a century.

The Stadium was Don Santiago's first great achievement, he had been appointed President in 1943 and very soon the Stadium was well under way.

With Sr. Muñoz Lasurreta, as his closest adviser, they planned the scheme which was to build a ground that has become the great power they are today. Bernabeu wanted the Stadium to have the personality for his scheme of things for Madrid. A personal home for members of the club, spectators and players. It has plush panelled lounges and offices with every possible luxury, including covered terraces throughout. Super luxury dressing rooms and players quarters.

Atmosphere

He wanted a ground that was the best in Spain . . . he got the best in the world, for even San Siro, Wembley, Hampden Park, Maracarno and Aztec cannot hold the atmosphere of Santiago Bernabeu.

Real were not the millionaire club they are today and financing such a project seemed impossible. Sr. Bernabeu knew the public of Madrid. He drew up a Bond scheme of 500 ptas. (£3) bonds. It was a flying success, everyone had a share or two in the new Stadium. Since then all the bonds have been bought back by the club with their great financial income by the perfect playing technique and administrative structure of the club.

Today the land on which the ground stands in the heart of the City is estimated to be worth £11,000,000.

In the anniversary match Real Madrid were very ordinary and uninspiring . . . even with Eusebio, Dzajic, Bene and Drobin in the supporting cast.

Anyway to me there is something sadistic in watching great players like Tommy Lawton, Di Stefano, Kubala or whoever you choose, running around the pitch and painfully only showing a flash of what they once were. I don't want to see them again . . . any of them.

NAMES MAKE NEWS by Norman Cutler

BEST FOR REAL— PULL THE OTHER ONE!

ONE day an air of expectancy and interest hung over Madrid, as hundreds in the street and on buses read the newspapers. The atmosphere was intriguing, so I bought a paper and joined the curious.

The headlines told the whole surprising, amazing and shock story . . . the opposite to what we had been led to believe.

BEST AND BERNABEU IN AGREEMENT.

Manchester United player arrives at Santa Pola and signs for Real Madrid.

Conditions: 10,000,000 ptas. (£65,000)
50,000 ptas. (£300) monthly salary
An apartment in Madrid
30 days annual vacation.

The Idol of British football promises to cut his hair, shave off his beard and sing only one record: "Hala, Madrid".

It was most surprising. I had been at the club just previously and, not for the first time, been told: "Best is too restless for Real".

Curiously, I then read the story again, and the truth dawned . . . the last line in very small print read . . .

Ah! Los Santos Innocentes!

The Day of the Innocents in Spain is equivalent to April Fools Day, particularly for the newspapers. This time they must have regretted their subject, for they were flooded with telephone calls.

EL PRESIDENTE DEL REAL HA DADO EL PRIMER PASO HACIA EL "SI" A LOS EXTRANJEROS

¡Best y Bernabéu, de acuerdo!

EL JUGADOR DEL MANCHESTER UNITED, QUE HA LLEGADO A SANTA POLA, FIRMARA POR EL MADRID

CONDICIONES DEL CONTRATO

1. Diez millones de pesetas, 50.000 de sueldo al mes, un apartamento en Madrid y treinta días de vacaciones al año
2. El ídolo del fútbol británico tendrá que cortarse el pelo y afeitarse la barba y sólo podrá grabar un disco: el "¡Hala, Madrid!"
3. Todo lo que haga el internacional irlandés tendrá que ser con el visto bueno de Miguel Muñoz, que no se ha opuesto al fichaje

¡Ah! Los Santos Inocentes.

No celebrations in Hungary...

by LESLIE VERNON

THE Hungarian F.A. celebrated the 75th Anniversary of football with a short meeting, a few speeches, and then—deafening silence. Not even a youth international or a modest dinner-dance marked the occasion.

Perhaps behind this reluctance to beat the drums, even ever so slightly, lies the fact that although the first goal was kicked in 1897, the F.A. was officially formed four years later—to be precise, on January 10, 1901. But I suspect that the members of the management committee didn't feel like celebrating.

The Hungarians are only happy if a dramatically marvellous or tragically terrible event shakes them out of their usual even-tempered complacency. As 1972 was a relatively indifferent year, the champagne bottles remained uncorked, the anniversary discreetly underplayed.

Record

Yet, the history of Hungarian football is studded with remarkable achievements, great personalities and momentous events. Although they lost the first international in Vienna 5-0 against Austria in 1902, the balance sheet is a positive one—up to date, 471 games have been played, 261 won, 115 lost, and 95 ended in draws. The Magyar national team scored 1,245 goals and let in 753.

Obviously, the most "painful" of those goals conceded were the four scored by Italy in the 1938 World Cup Final, the one by Helmut Rahn of West Germany in the 1954 Final, and Deyna's winner for Poland a few month's ago in the Munich Olympic Games.

No shame

But, to be runners-up on such occasions is no shame. After all, they collected the Olympic title three times, England were beaten conclusively at Wembley, and in four other full internationals.

Hungary was the last country to defeat Brazil in a World Cup match, in 1954, and the first, in 1966. Let's look once again at the results of the "wonder team" during their purple period in the fifties:

1951—P. 3, W. 3;
1952—P. 10, W. 10;
1953—P. 8, W. 5, D. 3;
1954—P. 14, W. 12, D. 1, L. 1 (ouch);
1955—P. 12, W. 10, D. 2.

In five years, 47 games were played, and only one lost—goals for, 198, against, 52. And how about those fabulous players who created the famous Central European style. Old-timers Schlosser, Schaffer, the Fogl brothers, goalkeeper Zsak, and one of the most brilliant footballers of all time, Gyorgy Orth.

The pre-war "brainstrust" Csch—Sarosi—Zsengeller, Gyula Lazar, a wing-half of infinite grace and finesse, wingers Sas and Titkos, and the man who could score goals from the far corner of the penalty-box, Vili Kohut.

Ferenc Bene of Hungary.

As a child, I used to worship these demigods, who could transform our household into a happy paradise, or turn it into a morgue, depending on the result of the week-end match. Gyuri Sarosi once scored seven goals in a game against Czechoslovakia, whose 'keeper, Planicka, was rated as the world's best.

Ferencvaros lost a Mitropa Cup tie in Vienna 4-0, only to win the second-leg 6-1 in Budapest. Ujpest travelled to Geneva in 1930 and became the "Champion of Champions" in an international tournament. M.T.K. had a goal-keeper, Toni Szabo, who used to sweep out his goal-mouth with an old broom during a game, and saved penalties with his head, and a centre-forward, Matyi Cseh, who habitually dribbled past defences, stopped the ball on the goal-line, then laid down comfortably and nodded in a goal with utter contempt. Yes, those were the days my friend!

And after the war came the immortals the legendary figures who conquered more than just a corner of Europe. The mental image of Hungary used to be people eating gulyas daily, while they listened to gypsy music, but very few people could name a Magyar statesman, poet, or composer.

But now, be it Ethiopia or Mexico, mention Hungary, and the first word the native will utter is "Puskas"—and the second, "Bozsik". The sportsmen have always been the best ambassadors of this small country, and the footballers have done their share—perhaps more than most.

Sad duty

I do realise that losing the Olympic title was a bitter disappointment, that Florian Albert stepped out of line once too often, and at the wrong time, and to suspend a 74-times capped player for four months is a sad duty, and that the standard of league football could be higher.

But for once, let's look at the 75-year-old forest and not at the few ugly trees that obscure the view. The future may also be bright, another Hidegkuti might be kicking a ball in school football, and a budding Grosics might have just joined a youth team. We must have faith, must be optimistic, must praise and encourage the young, make football as magical for them as it was for us. There is plenty to celebrate—come on, wake up—open those champagne bottles!

Queen's Park Rangers captain Terry Venables (4) wins possession against Allan Foggan of Cardiff City.

Welsh news by PETER JACKSON

HEREFORD PROVE A THREAT TO CARDIFF

IT's 26 years since an English club last won the Welsh Cup. Now there are ominous signs of two Fourth Division clubs massing forces on the border for a joint raid which could leave the Welsh F.A. with yet another embarrassing problem.

Between them, Hereford United and Chester may yet present Wales with a ticklish problem as to who will represent the Principality in next season's European Cup Winners Cup.

Cardiff City, for all their sweat near the bottom of the Second Division, are clear favourites to regain the trophy they lost to Wrexham last May.

But the English challenge is more formidable now than it has been at any time since the Welsh Cup assumed more than academic importance by offering the victor a place in Europe.

Hereford, fast emerging as probable promotion candidates to Division Three, have nothing more exacting to do to reach the semi-finals than a home match against Southern League Merthyr, the club which dreams of providing its player-manager John Charles with a nostalgic return to the fields of Europe.

Strenuous

And Chester, having raised the distress signals for Wales by eliminating holders Wrexham, have nothing more strenuous than a match against Welshpool, a club nestling in the comparative obscurity of the Mid-Wales League.

In contrast, Cardiff have a much more severe route to the semi-finals, an away tie against Newport County or Swansea City. Northern Premier League club Bangor City ought to be too good for Oswestry Town in the other quarter final but there's no escaping from the possibility of an all-English final.

That hasn't happened since 1936 when Crewe Alexandra defeated Chester. Then, however, there was no such problem as to whether Crewe ought to represent Wales in a European competition.

Should the draw provide for a Hereford-Chester final then the Welsh F.A. may be hard pushed to convince UEFA that any Welsh club has achieved enough to warrant Cup-winners' Cup nomination.

A beaten finalist, provided the club concerned is Welsh, will be accepted by UEFA but it is by no means certain that Europe would give its permission for Wales to be represented by, for argument's sake, the winner of a play-off between the losing semi-finalists.

Sequence

Cardiff should be good enough to save the head-scratching at Welsh F.A. headquarters in Wrexham's Fairy Road. Yet their persisting sequence of away ties in the competition suggests they will have to win it the hard way.

Seven goals in an absurdly one-sided shoot in at Aberystwyth last month (Jan) meant something of a storybook Welsh Cup baptism for Andy McCulloch. The former Queen's Park Rangers striker scored within 50 seconds of the kick-off and finished with two goals when he had the chances for a double hat-trick.

The summary dismissal of Wrexham hardly makes it easier for Cardiff, not with Hereford and Chester lurking in the shadows just over the border.

Perhaps ironically, each has a strong Welsh flavour. Chester are managed by a Welshman, former Aston Villa inside forward Ken Roberts and their side includes two Welsh Under 23 internationals—defender Nigel Edwards and Derek 'Didi' Draper, a midfield player who gained his Under 23 recognition several years ago while with Swansea.

Hereford, who must owe something to the spadework done by Charles to help win them a place in the Football League have few more consistent players than Alan Jones.

The back-four specialist who once thought of quitting the game to join the police force is a worthy example of how much can be achieved by sheer graft. And Jones has succeeded in spite of having to share in that nightmarish experience at Molineux almost seven years ago.

It was then that he played for a hopelessly immature Welsh side, humiliated 8-0 by England in surely the Under 23 mis-match of the decade.

Within months Jones had been given a free-transfer by Swansea but Charles took him to Hereford and slowly he picked up the pieces. Jones, now playing better than ever, is one very good reason why Hereford believe they can throw a giant spanner into the Welsh Cup works.

Temptation

The fact that no English club can represent Wales in Europe offers the temptation to call for a Welsh-only Welsh Cup. Such a cry has an obvious danger.

What, if by way of reprisal, the F.A. decided to make their Challenge Cup open only to English clubs? Not that they will be concerned because a Welsh team has as much chance these days of winning a Wembley Cup final as a three-legged horse has of going round Aintree

Club Focus on REAL MADRID by JACK ROLLIN

SPAIN'S 'KINGS' REIGN YET AGAIN

A YEAR ago it was five pesetas to a Majorca suntan that Real Madrid would win the Spanish League. They had led the table after the second week of the season and were never caught.

After a couple of seasons of getting more knocks than an old movie on television, Real suddenly became reborn. Out came the gimmicks. They called them Bernabeu's Babes, the Mini-Madrilians of Miguel Munoz, Calderon's Kids, etc. But there was more to it than that. The team was good. Its new look was based on youth with the helpful blend of some of the older hands.

The formula proved a winner and Real duly carried off the title at the end of the season amid much clamour. Perhaps it was just as well. For a club which had known little but success internationally or domestically for a decade and a half, the absence of a major trophy during 1970-71 had been a bitter pill to swallow.

The 1971-72 season is history with another League championship title for the Real boardroom. What matters now is the 1972-73 season and stocktaking about just how the new-look Real is coping with a defence of the title.

True enough, Real began the season creditably enough with a 3-2 win away to Castellon. They had their first home game against Gijon and despatched them 1-0. In Las Palmas they returned with a useful 1-1 draw. So far is looked good enough.

Next came the traditional battle with local rivals Atletico at Charmartin. A crowd of 100,000 filed in to see the slaughter. But Atletico were not to be beaten despite Real's strenuous attempts and the visitors retired with a precious 1-0 win. The following week Real trailed off to play the traditional enemies in Barcelona and the Catalans also beat them 1-0.

Fortunately Real had had an easy draw in the European Cup facing Keflavik the Icelandic side, though many would have thought that a 4-0 aggregate win was nothing startling against such opposition.

But Real picked up the thread in the League and after a 2-1 home win against Granada they drew 0-0 at Zaragoza and were then held scoreless at home by Coruna.

Protests

Then came their best performance of the season, a 1-0 win in Valencia before Oviedo were beaten by three clear goals at Charmartin. But in Betis, Real lost by the odd goal in three. Home wins—2-0 v Burgos and 1-0 v Español—were followed by a 2-1 defeat in Bilbao before the incredible happened, and Real Sociedad were thrashed 6-1.

So ended 1972 but 1973 started badly enough in Malaga where a disputed penalty sent them to defeat and Velazquez was sent off for protesting about the incident.

But with the 17th game at the half-way stage of the season, Celta Vigo were beaten 1-0 to put Real in fourth place—four points behind the leaders Barcelona.

On the face of it, it does not look too good for Real capturing the title again. But there are some comforting pointers for all that. Their goal average of 23-12 means that they have the second best attack in the First Division and the second best defence—nobody scores goals in Spain anymore, of course—and this is precisely what happened last season when

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Real Madrid, back row left to right: Garcia Ramon, Gonzalez, Benito, Verdugo, Grosso, Zoco. Front: Amancio, Pirri, Santillana, Velazquez, Aguilar.

their finishing goal average of 51-27 was similarly second best for and against.

Moreover they were beaten 4-1 by Atletico in one game and still managed to pull off the title.

The side which put them back on the map is largely intact. Goalkeeper Garcia Remon (21) looks to be well on the way towards capturing the Ricardo Zamora trophy as the best goalkeeper of the season, as he has only conceded six goals —not having played in all games. And this in only his second season with them after spells with the club's amateur side and days in Division Three and Division Two.

Experienced

At full-back, Real are well served by Jose Luis the 29-year-old Moroccan-born right back, Juan Carlos Tourino the Argentinian of 26 from Buenos Aires, and also Juan Verdugo at 23 the ex-Cordoba player.

Centre back Gregorio Benito (26) is holding the defence together expertly and has been rewarded by international honours. The wing-half roles have been shared with veteran skipper Ignacio Zoco, now a surprising 33-year-old, Jose Grande (25) and the reliable Jose Pirri, now still only 27 but a most experienced performer, vying with the young Andres for senior berths.

Pirri, who missed about a month and a half of the previous season with injury but still managed to figure as top scorer with 11 goals in 1971-72. He has not been so much among the goals this season and chief scorer is a role now with Carlos Santillana, who stepped up last season to the accolade after Real paid £33,000 to Santander for his services.

Santillana is probably playing as well at centre-forward as any player in the First Division at present. His ten goals in 1971-72 look like going by the board this term. Already he has seven in the League and can add four to this in the European Cup. He is at 20 a useful prospect indeed.

Then come the three "As" in attack—Francisco Aguilar, Eduardo Anzarda and the evergreen Amancio. Aguilar at 23 has scored four times this term, Anzarda is an Argentinian one year younger who has replaced Gento as the left winger at Chamartin, and Amancio, now 33, continues to be regular choice when fit. Curiously enough, all three finished last season on six goals in the title season.

Completing the senior squad are Ramon Grosso in the front line, a veteran too at 29, and another striker Maranon, aged 24. Manuel Velazquez, who spoiled his record at Malaga, is now 30 but a more than adequate performer in the engine room of the team.

Perhaps it was too much to have expected Real to carry all before them for a second successive season, but they are still in Europe and in touch with the leaders in the domestic scene. If they can turn the tables on Atletico and be able to account for both Barcelona and Valencia at home, this could put an entirely different picture on the scene.

Santillana has proved that he is no flash in the pan and providing the veterans in midfield can keep control, the young defence should see them through the second half of the season.

Celebrated

Another milestone soon to be passed by Real is their 100th European Cup game which should be signalled in the quarter-finals. Manager Miguel Munoz has been in charge of the club for 12 years and was the man who had the honour of scoring Real Madrid's first goal in Europe in the 1955-56 season.

Yet another moment for the record books was completed this season when Chamartin celebrated its 25th anniversary. The occasion was marked with a benefit match for the legendary Francisco Gento, the last of the great Real players to retire a couple of seasons ago.

Perhaps it is too early to talk about Real keeping the Spanish League title, far too premature to speak of them in the same breath as Santamaria, Puskas and Di Stefano, but no one can say for sure that the best of the present side has yet been seen.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

AMONG the sideline oddities thrown up by the Common Market match at Wembley was the fact that the Six team included several Footballers of the Year in their respective countries. Strangely enough one or two won their awards after being selected for this match.

Standard Liege goalkeeper Christian Piot was elected Belgian Player of the Year, Olympique Marseille's right back, the coloured Marius Tresor, was similarly honoured by France and the one and only Gunter Netzer had already been named as Germany's top player.

In addition Franz Beckenbauer was voted European Footballer of the Year and both Netzer and Gerd Muller tied for second place. In fourth place in that poll was Johan Cruyff the Dutch wizard and 1971 winner who missed the Wembley game because of injury. He was, however, an interested spectator.

But for Louis Pilot the Luxemburger called up for the game, he only trod the hallowed turf as a substitute without being called upon. Yet as Footballer of the Year four times running in his own country, he has more such honours than most of the others who appeared in the game, modest though his country may be as a soccer nation.

THE advertising agency trying to sell Holland's World Cup squad has had to admit defeat. Its aim was to find sponsors prepared to chip in around £63,000 apiece. But there were no takers.

The players—who will earn £8,000 a man if they get to Munich plus a share of advertising receipts—need not worry too much. The Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond guarantees the bonus.

Reason for the lack of interest is said to be the dull 0-0 draw the Dutch served up against Belgium in their preliminary game. Apparently several firms refused promised sponsorship after the match.

Meanwhile the KNVB is trying to sell the team itself—and the ad agency is demoted to mere adviser.

Barrie Hole, the 30-year-old wing half who quit football at the end of last season to become a greengrocer, is back in action . . . for Merthyr. Capped 30 times by Wales, Hole has joined a sizeable colony of former internationals at Penydarren Park. Among them are goalkeeper Dilwyn John, centre half Mel Nurse and John Charles, at 41, is still going strong.

Relegated from the Premier division last season, Charles has rebuilt his own team in twelve months as manager of the club and found a place for himself as an old fashioned centre forward. Another great Welsh football name still playing—Ivor Allchurch, coach of Welsh league club Haverfordwest.

England captain Bobby Moore gained a place in an All-Europe XI based on a poll among 20 European newspapers. The XI is:

Rudakov (Russia, 6 votes); Dobias (Czechoslovakia) or Dsodsuashvili (Russia, 3), Beckenbauer (West Germany, 14), Moore (England, 10), Breitner (West Germany, 14), Neeskens (Holland, 4), Netzer (West Germany, 18), Deyna (Poland, 6), Cruyff (Holland, 12), Muller (West Germany, 19), Dzajic (Yugoslavia, 6).

SPAIN is to allow importations, not ad lib, but two to each club. This is a complete change of mind from the turbulent summer of 1966 which saw such a passionate fight for importations, and when they voted to ban players until the World Cup in 1974.

In 1972 the clubs voted to stand by the previous regulations. The wise, sensible heads of Real Madrid led the clubs on that occasion. The leadership of Barcelona, cock-a-hoop at giving such support against Real, was supported by a football magazine which brainwashed the clubs and public.

It told of the Elysum Fields the importation of foreign players would bring. Two foreigners of super-class would transform teams into world beaters like Di Stefano, Puskas, Rial and Santamaria did during Real Madrid's hey-day. They described international scenes and Spain's National Eleven as something extraordinary . . . they were never more than ordinary, in fact.

Foreign stars will bring experience and knowledge which will transform soccer from the Juvenile level. The public will flock to the grounds to see the importations which will pay for the huge transfer fees.

Norman Cutler, our man in Spain, says: Personally I think the clubs have taken the wrong decision. I cannot see that importing 60 players, even top class ones, will guarantee the change of domestic and international scene the "open the door" supporters have forced through.

Consequences of the Spring fraudulent documents case in Spain are just coming to light. The first is Miguel Adorno, Valencia's Paraguayan striker, who has added such strength to their attack. Adorno was unmentioned in the main false signings scare, he joined Valencia from Racing de Buenos Aires

Can you name all the famous players
match at Stamford Bridge. Fifth from
WORLD SOCCER's contributors. T

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pictured above. They played in a recent Charity the left in the back row is Leslie Vernon, one of he rest played against a team of ex-British rnationals.

panish passport (No. ed in Rosario) and r suspicion in the back- he Consulate of Santa ation.

called before Court No. er questions from the Magistrate. Sitting with and Valencia officials calmly and unmoved ons that his nationality Spanish and that his re not born in Spain. ge mentioned in open dorno is not Spanish. assport is correct it own object and he is to play football in has played in Spain's eague and Cup and the Cups.

Recess

he Court presented the up by the Minister of ffairs the Judge called during which Adorno he photographers to a ining the Court. Within e had jumped through v and had hurried across hall of the Palace of crowded with lawyers, etc., and drove off in a r driven by a Valencia ater it was announced urt that Adorno passed tmas holidays at the one of his playing

be recalled that when arrived in Valencia a the club was unable to immediately because his documents were incomplete. He went to Madrid and waited until they were sent specially by air from Buenos Aires.

Since the Adorno story broke, Doval, Mallorca's South American importation, apparently with Spanish parents, has mysteriously disappeared. He left the ground after a training session and has not been seen since. He is said to have told other players that he would soon be returning to the Argentine.

The affair is interesting because of the effect on Spain's World Cup plans. Adorno has been coached by Kubala as one of the Spanish World Cup forty . . . now he is illegible.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

UNTIL recently, student soccer in Britain had been almost completely dominated by the universities, who through large intakes and adequate facilities could produce very competent sides, some players even making it into the professional game, others consistently appearing in county and national amateur teams.

The last few years have, however, seen the British Colleges of Education form a team good enough to give creditable performances against F.A. Amateur XI's.

More recently a British Polytechnic students team has been formed, which with the increasing number of full-time and part-time students entering polytechnics will be able to match its scholastic counterparts. Students and staff alike felt that polytechnic students were not getting a fair deal in the selection of national student teams and county and national amateur sides.

At the European Student Football Games in Rumania in 1972 the British Student team contained only one polytechnic student. With the creation of the new team it is hoped that future British teams will be able to draw upon all students in the country ranging from the Oxford undergraduate to the part-time apprentice studying at his local polytechnic.

Coach to the National Polytechnic side is Robin Russell, a fully qualified F.A. coach from Liverpool Polytechnic, helped by Football League referee John Hunting (Leicester) and ex-professional Bill Macbeeth (Rugby) together with others throughout the country.

The Polytechnic team hopes to play its first game against the British Colleges of Education in March, and in future years triangular tournaments between the three scholastic teams is envisaged.

The next European games are not until 1974, but invitations have been received for (unfortunately too late) the First World Student Football Games in Chile in January of 1973.

With the increased interest of professional clubs in the student game and the development of greater internationad competition, many in student soccer are considering the effects of the F.A.'s decision to disband the "amateur" and whether status and finance may be redirected from institutions such as the F.A. amateur international team towards sponsoring what are still "amateur" students in international competition.

Gunter Netzer of West Germany.

Irish news from COLIN McALPIN

Johnston—soccer's manager of the season

'He doesn't want to know about defensive tactics'

FEW managers can reflect on their career in the hot seat with quite as mush satisfaction as Billy Johnston, the former Oldham Athletic and Northern Ireland forward currently guiding the fortunes of Crusaders, the team freely tipped to win the current Irish League Championship.

For Johnston, a 30-year-old physical education lecturer in Belfast, the side he has built over the past two seasons is almost entirely his own. In that space of time he has brought to Seaview, the unfashionable north Belfast ground, some of the most exciting young players to emerge in Northern Ireland soccer in recent years. And he has moulded the side into arguably the most attractive of the 12 battling for major honours. Certainly their record after the opening seven games spoke for itself:— they had won five, drawn one and lost one. And they had scored 21 goals and conceded a mere six.

Successive

But more than this, exciting though it is for Crusaders fans who have never had a Championship team to support—the Crues have won the Irish Cup twice, beating in successive seasons at the end of the sixties the "Big Two" of the Irish League, Glentoran and Linfield—and who feel that they might well be doing so come May, Johnston has altered in several subtle ways the image of the club.

He is nothing if not professional. He is young, ambitious and knows the game inside out. He also knows that the fans want only one thing: goals and more goals, a side that is never afraid to attack. He doesn't want to know about defensive tactics, he isn't interested in the dull approach to the game.

Over the Christmas holiday games Crusaders whipped Distillery 8—0 and it wasn't the first such scoreline of the season. Earlier in the term they got the same result against Cliftonville.

Johnston has established himself as the manager of the season in the Province. So much so that Linfield, anxious to halt their slide from the top, were keen on his services. Many a Seaview fan breathed a sigh of relief when Billy made it clear that he was staying with the club; he had, after all, still to actually win a trophy with them.

Doomed

His own playing career was cut short by a knee injury while with Oldham. But, in spite of a couple of comeback attempts which were doomed to failure, he realised that if he wasn't going to be a player he could still contribute much to the game.

During his first season with Crusaders he permed and re-permed his players. Often it seemed he simply couldn't get the right mixture; first he would sort out what was a poor defence only to have the forwards let him down. But he kept at it . . . and suddenly, this season, it's all fallen into place.

The strength of his side lies, particularly in attack, in the fact that he has several quality players all capable of winning matches. He has no less than four strikers featured in the scoring charts—Bobby McQuillan had 15, Jackie Fullerton had 15, Tom Finney had 11 and John McPolin had 14.

As Fullerton says: "Other clubs tend to rely on one man to get the goals, with us the opposition must keep an eye on five or six men. And this means that one of us can afford, from time to time, to have an off-day without upsetting the forward power too much."

The great thing in Crusaders' favour is their youth. They will be disappointed if none of the major prizes come to Seaview this season, but if this should be the case then there is time next season, or the season after. Time is certainly on their side.

It seems unfair, but Billy Johnston has on his books some of the most talented men in the business. Goalkeeper Terry Nicholson, a survivor of the Cup wins, is now the best in the local game. John McPolin, a tall mid-field player, is recognised as the classiest going. Skipper Walter McFarland, another Cup man, is having his best-ever season.

And up front there are the most lethal of forwards, men like the excellent Charlie Tuson, like the hard-working Finney, like McQuillan with the rocket shot, and Fullerton, a veteran of the team at 29, who often looks to be out of play for long periods but who usually pops up to grab a goal.

Unfashionable is a tag the Crues want to lose. Their all-action style, their talent-in-depth and their exciting young manager are doing a great job to lose it. Keep an eye on them . . . there's more, as the man said, to come!

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CANTWELL TACKLES A HARD TASK

by ERIC THORNTON

THE man who was proclaimed a natural for soccer managership while still decorating the international scene as a player of character and style, is now picking up the pieces in the backwoods, and replanning the future in the ancient Soke of Peterborough.

Noel Cantwell, one-time gentlemanly idol of West Ham United, Manchester United and the Irish Republic, always seemed a good bet for a generous ration of sunshine and all the good things of life.

But as so often happens, the forecasters were most unreliable, and, instead, this extremely pleasant son of the old City of Cork is now having to fight every inch of the way, and from the basement upwards, too.

As an extremely old friend, I sincerely hope success crowns tremendous efforts. And that wish also goes for the benefit of the game. For big soccer urgently needs clear headed, intelligent, and dedicated straight shooters of the Cantwell category.

Gilt-edged

The background is there. He knows how players view things because during his time out on the park team-mates have included Phil Woosnam, Malcolm Allison, John Bond, Geoff Hurst, Jimmy Nicholson, Maurice Setters, Nobby Stiles, Bobby Charlton, Dennis Viollet, Albert Quixall and Denis Law.

It had been taken for granted that East London was to become a permanent home until Matt Busby changed all that with a surprise gilt-edged transaction at the dawn of the sixties, and the Irishman joined eleven others in a grim fight for six defensive places at Old Trafford—Gaskell, Gregg, Briggs, Foulkes, Brennan, Dunne, Setters, Stiles, Cope, Haydock and Lawton.

But he won through, and was beginning to look a fixture once more when a rather fantastic and unexpected mix-up ended with appointment as successor to Jimmy Hill—boss of a Coventry City team which needed rebuilding.

He did just that. He fought off a relegation threat. And got them into Europe. Then there was the sudden parting which, according to Cantwell himself, was inevitable because of a personality clash after the club had worn itself out climbing into the First Division, and staying there.

'There was a sudden parting which was inevitable because of a personality clash at Coventry'

Now today, as this six-footer ponders over Fourth Division problems in an office which provides a fine and soothing view of the River Nene on its way to the centuries-old Cathedral, happiness has returned with the sweat of labours.

Why? Because he's learning all about managership the hard way, buying and selling cautiously but cleverly on a small income, while all the time cogitating upon the chances of reaching the higher divisions. Even the Second Division in time.

I know he could have taken a better brief. Either abroad, and especially in Spain, or with other higher grade outfits in this country. But Noel is one of those thorough types who are ever eager to learn all they can about their jobs.

Moving to Coventry to become a First Division manager just three days after being a First Division player, had meant he went in at the deep end without experience, though learning quickly afterwards. The Fourth Division offered exactly the schooling and challenge that was wanted.

Noel Cantwell, manager of Peterborough United.

Peterborough the Posh were in a spot. And very depressed at the time. Which is not surprising. For they were firmly anchored to the bottom spot—the ninety-second spot in the Football League if you want it spelled out in brutal terms.

Re-election

Everybody associated with these 'babes' of league soccer was in a state of anxiety, and fearfully wondering whether the end of their thirteenth season might become their unlucky number, forcing a re-election canvass after all those long years spent fighting to get into the set-up.

Noel first pondered over the prospect. Then the directors guaranteed to provide at least £35,000 for new signings, while another supporter promised on interest-free loan of a similar sum. And the salary was matched up to First Division standards.

So he motored the 70-odd miles across the Midlands from Coventry to Peterborough, where the folk are not yet quite as bloody-minded about soccer as most of the bigger centres, and is staging the fight of his life for those precious points.

Ajax find breeds

Blankenburg of Ajax.

AJAX AMSTERDAM, the most successful club Holland has produced, can look back on 1972 as the year of their greatest achievements in their 65-year-old history. Champions and Cup winners of their country, champions of Europe and champions of the world. No club has bettered this record within the space of one season. Last term Ajax hit 104 goals in 34 League matches. In the current championship campaign they have scored 55 goals in the first 16 games! What more can a team achieve to earn the acclaim of fans throughout the world, or to gain the largest following, at least in their own country, but specifically to fill their ground at every match?

Yet, incredibly, the Dutch outfit is quite clearly suffering from the modern ailment which apparently can afflict even the greatest sides. The spoilt public have become saturated with triumphs to such an extent, that the majority of fans are now openly blasé about "ordinary" successes. After Ajax' victory in the inter-Continental Cup, over Independiente (Argentina), which made them unofficial champions of the world, only some 500 enthusiasts celebrated the title freely in the streets. The numerous cafés and bars in Amsterdam reported in fact, that business on that night was quite disappointing! A regular customer explained. "Everyone expected that Ajax would win. Then why get excited about something which was regarded as a foregone conclusion?"

And a faithful supporter added this illuminating observation: "I used to watch every Ajax match home and away, in all competitions, because nothing could compare with the atmosphere inside a football stadium, especially on a really big occasion. That is normally the only way to really enjoy a game. But the team kept winning and winning everything they played for, whilst my costs of following them on their various successful runs were steadily mounting. Today I can sit in the comfort of my own home. I switch on the colour TV and see Ajax for nothing!"

I am convinced that this argument applies to other equally successful teams in all parts of Europe, since it is usually the cream of football which is displayed on TV. In Britain, too, television is blamed for the alarming slump in attendances. And remember that in the English Football League, for instance, the 92 clubs reported, at the half way stage of the season, a total loss of over 1,500,000 spectators, as compared to the corresponding period last term. No other country in Europe has suffered such a startling drop in gates.

Transmitted

Yet, in England, there are no live transmissions of any matches during the season, except of course for the Cup Final. Last year, exceptionally, the England v. West Germany European Championship quarter-final was seen live, before the League programme had actually ended. But in most Continental countries games are transmitted direct on TV, including internationals, European Cup ties, etc.

In those lands, where because of small size, foreign television channels can be received quite easily, soccer fans are frankly swamped on occasions with the choice of live football. Last April, for example, no fewer than three European Cup semi-finals were seen in Switzerland in one day! These were Benfica v. Ajax (Swiss TV), Celtic v. Inter-Milan (Italian) and Glasgow Rangers v. Bayern Munich (German)—all obtainable on the same set simply by the switch of the knob!

Financial

There is little doubt, that clubs all over Europe will have to consider all aspects of televised soccer—whether live, or deferred, or in a strictly condensed version—and its overall effect on the gates. They must be expected to revise their whole attitude toward negotiating financial arrangements with the TV companies, who are often getting their programmes relatively cheap. Ajax too, will not be able to afford to allow their games being shown in full in the homes of the potential paying customers.

When, for instance, it was announced that their world championship match v. Independiente would be transmitted direct the advance ticket sales stopped almost abruptly. About 15,000 tickets remained unsold! Of course, the club would have preferred to wait till the match was a certain sell out, before arranging the broadcast with the television organisation. But the network were anxious to notify the viewers well in advance, that the game would be screened by their channel.

Ajax have not lost any of their popularity here. On the contrary, the whole country—and not just football fanatics—are solidly behind their favourites, who are worshipped and who enjoy the status of national heroes—if only via the TV box! But the fans no longer turn out in force to ordinary League games, after the intoxication of European and world trophies.

Solution

The slump is hitting Ajax where it hurts most, for out of TV fees alone the club cannot pay the high salaries demanded by their stars. And without the big names, without success the public wouldn't be interested at all. And so its a vicious circle, but one to which the football world must soon find a solution. Otherwise we might one day end up by watching on TV amateur footballers performing in empty grounds!

I do not subscribe to the view that there is too much televised soccer in England. I rather feel that the rivalry between BBC and ITV is carried to ludicrous proportions, such as would not be tolerated in any other country. These companies are not always "playing the game", to coin a phrase. They are so intent on competing with each other and to "score" off one another, that the patient public is often cheated of the best sport on their screens. These bodies even pretend that some big events do not exist, simply because the "other side" are covering it.

Detailed

The secretary of the Dutch FA, Jan Huybregts, has recently completed a detailed study, in which he examined the reaction of the football fans toward the wave of success created by Ajax. He discovered, for instance, amazingly, that commercial attachés overseas reported invariable "soft" bargaining with their Dutch counterparts, following an important win by Ajax! Because all Dutch

d success
s apathy

REPORT BY
ARTHUR ROTMIL

embassies and consulates abroad are apparently "pro Ajax".

In Holland, seats in Parliament are mostly unoccupied when a live TV broadcast of an Ajax match should clash with the timing of a political debate! Meetings, congresses, conferences, as well as most sports fixtures, are no longer arranged for the time when Ajax are likely to appear on the small screen. Many workers don't bother to turn up for their firms, when in mid-week a match of the "red-and-whites" is being transmitted from another country in the afternoon.

Theatres, cinemas and those cafés which have no TV, even close in the evenings when Ajax are "on view". In schools too, no exams are held, as a rule, on the day following a big match, because the principals fear a spate of inaccurate and misleading results from the overexcited and indeed overtired pupils! When Ajax first became champions of Europe, by beating Panathinaikos at Wembley in 1971, the national airport of Schiphol, near Amsterdam, was afterwards referred to only as "Ajax-airport".

Charter flights

The thousands of fans provided receipts of some £110,000 spent on cheap charter flights alone! TV officials in Holland claim that 80 per cent of all Dutchmen, above the age of 15 sit in front of their TV screens when Ajax are playing a European Cup tie. And that's even more than for live pictures of the landings on the moon!

Ajax are certainly the pride and joy of Holland. And it is doubtful whether any other football club in the world can claim to have captured the interest, the enthusiasm, and that peculiar feeling of belonging, among all social classes from top to bottom, without exception.

It may be easier to fill the grounds in grimy industrial cities, perhaps, but not quite so simple in such a sophisticated metropolis as Amsterdam. As for the club, they would indeed be delighted if only a small proportion of their faithful "armchair fans" would regain the habit of passing through the turnstiles of their ground now and then. . . .

'It is doubtful whether any club in the world can claim to have captured that peculiar feeling of belonging, among all social classes from top to bottom'

Kroll of Ajax.

Profile on DEREK DOUGAN by BRIAN MARSHALL

JUST LIKE A GOOD WINE

LIKE a good wine, Derek Dougan, the controversial Irishman who cannot be ignored, has apparently improved with age. Now in the twilight of his playing career, "The Doug" is now playing better and more consistently than ever before.

The Irish international freely admits that it is the knowledge that he is coming to an end of a fine career which is now making him appreciate every match in which he takes part.

Rather surprisingly, it is only over the past three years that he has come of age. Prior to this spell he was often controversial and a rebel in his own right.

Now he has matured a great deal and appears to appreciate the complications of making rash decisions and becoming involved too hastily in situations when they arise.

In retrospect, the turning point of his career occurred when he was suspended for eight weeks after it had been alleged he had sworn at a linesman during the Wolves-Everton match at Molineux.

As a result of this enforced break from the game, Dougan emerged as a "new" personality.

Pattern

In the past he had always possessed the ability to attract attention. Over the past three years, however, his career has followed a more settled pattern which could give him a firm base for the future when he decides to quit playing soccer.

His opinions are now sought on a variety of subjects. While they do not always prove agreeable to the majority, it does indicate that the Irishman has attempted to create a new personality which is now more agreeable than in his early flamboyant days with Blackburn Rovers and Aston Villa.

Personally, I find him a pleasing character. At times, like his soccer play, I'm undecided whether to take him seriously.

Upon reflection it is a serious attitude as he attempts to "feel" the situation as it develops. It is this attitude which has enabled him to emerge as a top soccer personality on and off the field.

It says a great deal for Derek Dougan that he can head a weekly sports programme on BBC Radio Birmingham. I've been on the programme on several occasions and have been impressed with his general approach and obvious interest in this facet of public relations.

But this is typical of the Irishman. It has been his great belief in his own ability which has enabled him to seesaw his way back into the headlines after dropping out of the game with Peterborough United.

It was yet another safari for the sharp-eyed Irishman. For many players this move would have been the last step to obscurity.

Instead, he linked up with Gordon Clark, who was then Peterborough's manager, and responded warmly to the challenges given him by the present Arsenal chief scout.

There was little doubt that Dougan himself recognised the situation in which he found himself. It says a great deal for his stamina and resolution that he refused to allow himself to be eliminated.

Even in these circumstances he took every opportunity that fell his way. I remember seeing him play for Peterborough at the London Road ground in the F.A. Cup against Arsenal. He had a brilliant game and paved the way for Peterborough's unexpected win over the famous London side.

Surprise

I suppose, upon reflection, it was this game which kept him in the public eye. It was, nevertheless, still a big surprise when Leicester City paid Peterborough £20,000 for his services.

He had spent two years with Peterborough and in this time had developed into a very good player. With Leicester he scored 30 goals in one season, but when they seemed to think he was getting a little past his best and when Wolves, who were in the Second Division at the time, were prepared to pay £50,000 to acquire his services the Filbert Street club were not slow to agree to the move.

But as Dougan has wryly pointed out on several occasions, the Leicester club have since spent nearly half a million pounds on seeking his replacement. Club managers might well pause and think of this case when they are on the verge of making, what they think, is a quick profit.

There are no short-cuts in soccer and Dougan himself has travelled a long road to find some of his best form.

Ambition

He has personally never regretted his move to Wolves. He helped them to gain promotion back into the First Division and has been striving to earn some other successes.

His only regret has been his ability to figure on a Cup winning side at Wembley. The nearest he got to achieving this ambition was in 1960 when he was in the Blackburn side defeated 3-0 by Wolves.

But it is his proud boast that he is the only member of either side currently involved in regular First Division soccer.

Time, however, is running out for Derek Dougan. But he is that kind of character who, for sheer cussedness, could go on playing for at least another two seasons to prove the critics wrong.

He has lost none of his ability and his clever skill has been the brains behind the tremendous form of young John Richards.

His showmanship has been a feature which will always be associated with him. He has that rare crowd-pulling quality and to his credit he has used this to further his career both on and off the field.

Derek Dougan in action at Tottenham.

Whether he remains in the game when he quits playing is a matter of some conjecture. He claims that he has no wish to be a manager but soccer is a strange game and Derek Dougan would have to give serious consideration to the proposal if the offer was made. Derek Dougan is no one's fool.

Morete, the Argentine national championship's leading scorer, puts another in the net for River Plate.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

Lorenzo complete first 'double'

SAN LORENZO became the first club in Argentina to complete the "double" of winning both the First Division and the National Championship in the same season since the latter competition's start in 1967. In fact, since Estudiantes de La Plata won the First Division in 1967 and then finished runners-up in the first ever National Championship, First Division champions have always shown an amazing loss of form in the "National". This season San Lorenzo went through the 48 games of the two tournaments, winning 29 games, drawing 16, losing 3, with an 89-39 goals record.

San Lorenzo, River Plate and Boca Juniors qualified for the National Championship play-off. According to the new rules, group runners-up only qualified if they finished not more than three points behind the leaders and this left out Colon. River Plate beat Boca Juniors 3—2 to qualify for the final against San Lorenzo, the game which would either give the "Saints" the first "double" or finally end River Plate's run of bad luck which has left them without a title win since 1957—15 years—during which time they have, however, been runners-up on numerous occasions.

Suspect defence

River Plate, who had been First Division champions 13 times up to 1957, had really steam-rolled through the National Championship with the youngest team in the competition. They scored 50 goals in 13 games—which included a 7—1 win against South American club champions, Independiente—although their defence was a bit suspect.

San Lorenzo had often failed to please with their soccer during the season, but in this final they certainly gave a lesson of combined play and hard work. They had all the chances, but possibly failed to turn their superiority into goals because they didn't move up their mid-field players, but at the same time they put up an unbreakable barrier against the goal hungry River Plate attack.

San Lorenzo's luck seemed to be completely out however when Chazarreta shot a penalty wide in the last minute and the game went into extra time. Then Ayala's goal gave San Lorenzo the 1—0 victory they richly deserved in the first period of extra time.

(Both finalists represent Argentina in the South American Club Championship this year, together with cup holders, Independiente.)

At press-time Nacional had made sure of winning the Uruguayan First Division title for the fourth time running with a five-point lead over eternal rivals, Peñarol, and only two games to go, while in Chile, Colo-Colo had made sure of finishing top with a four-point lead and two games to go. Cerro Porteño are the Paraguayan champions, while three teams—Deportivo, Cali, Nacional (Medellin) and Millionarios (Bogotá) tied for top place in the Colombian "Finalización" Championship and were playing off for first place and the right to face the "Opening" Championship leaders for the national title.

URUGUAY (First Division—2 games to go): (1) Nacional 33 pts. (2) Peñarol 28, (3) Defensor 22, (4) Cerro 21, (5) River Plate, Huracan Buceo, Liverpool 20, (8) Rentistas, Sudamerica 18, (10) Bella Vista 16, (11) Danubio 15, (12) Central Español 9.

CHILE (First Division—2 games to go): (1) Colo-Colo 49 pts. (2) Union Española 45, (3) Universidad de Chile 44, (4) Concepción 41, (5) Green Cross 39, (6) Universidad Catolica 38, (7) La Serena 37, (8) Huchipato 36, (9) Magallanes 34, (10) Lota Schwager Naval 29, (12) Antofagasta, O'Higgins 24, (14) Rangers, San Felipe 23, (16) Union Calera 22, (17) Wanderers 21, (18) Everton 18.

PERU (National Championship—2 games to go): (1) Defensor Lima 38 pts. (2) Alianza Lima, Municipal 37, (4) Universitario 34, (5) Aurich 33, (6) Sporting Cristal 29, (7) SIMA 28, (8) Torino 27, (9) Sport Boys 26, (10) Grau, Galvez, Melgar 25, (13) Manucci León de Huanuco, Tuman 23, (16) Defensor Arica 15.

PARAGUAY: (First Division—Final): (1) Cerro Porteño, (2) Olimpia.

COLOMBIA: ("Finalización" Championship): Deportivo Cali, Millionarios (Bogotá) and Nacional (Medellin) tied for top place and are playing off.

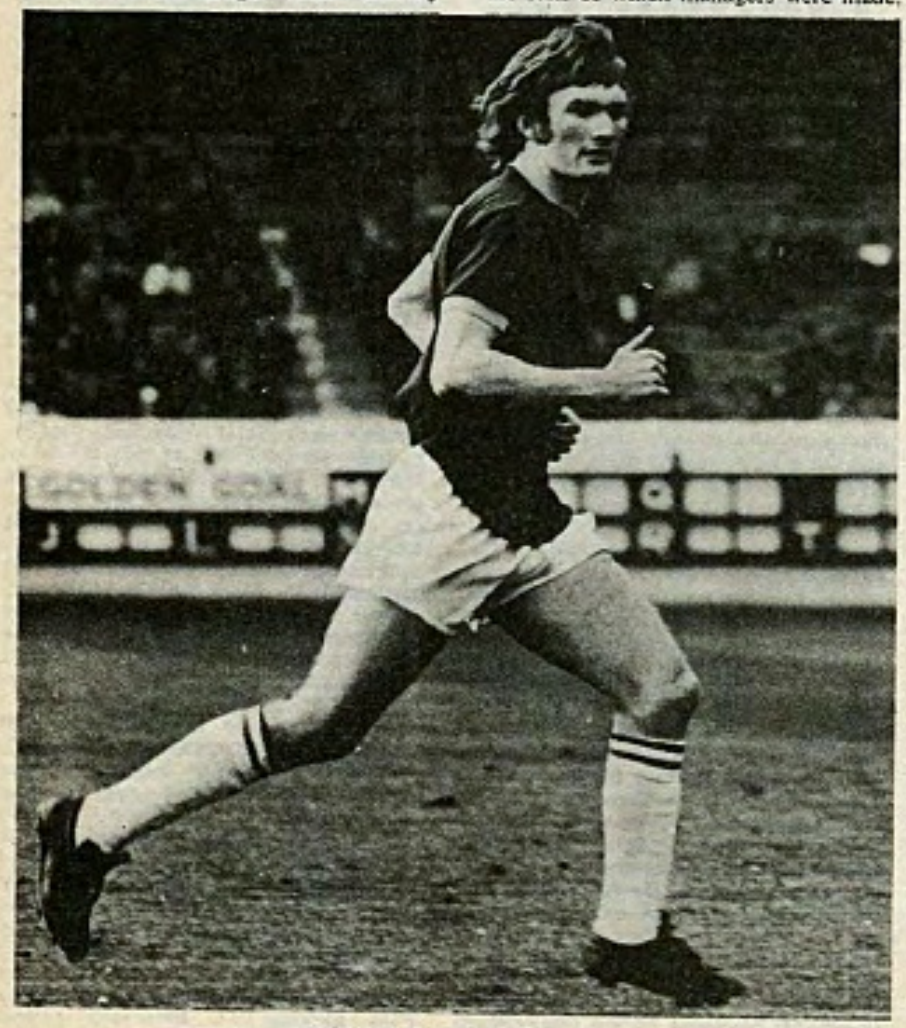
BRAZIL (National Championship): The following teams qualified for semi-final Pools: Internacional (Porto Alegre), Santos, Curitiba, San Paulo, Atletico Mineiro, Corinthians (S. Paulo), Gremio (Porto Alegre), Botafogo (Rio), Fluminense (Rio), Ceara, Cruzeiro (Bello Horizonte), Palmeiras (S. Paulo), Santa Cruz, America.

Burnley's small miracle

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

THE success, the recovery, of Burnley this season, the imminence of their return to the First Division, is something of a small miracle. When they fell out of it a couple of seasons ago, that seemed effectively to be that; the extraordinary balancing act they had performed for so many years appeared to be at an end. The brutal realities of football's economic facts would assert themselves. No longer could Burnley continue to find, as if by magic, one brilliant youngster after another, fatten him up, like the witch in Hansel and Gretel, sell him, and carry on as though he were in no way missed.

One had to feel sorry for the brave and loyal Jimmy Adamson, whose elevation to the full managership, from grey eminence and coach, had coincided with the team's downfall. Was he truly the stuff of which managers were made; or was he simply a superb coach—as he had been a superb club player, rather than an international?



Leighton James of Burnley.

Lean and dark, if rather less lean than in his days as a distinguished Burnley half-back, greyer, too, Adamson says: "Sometimes you gain a reputation which you don't deserve. Jackie Milburn once told me that what you inherit at football is the most important thing. He said to me: 'Try to inherit well.' Most managers, if you find yourself bottom of the League, you don't sleep well. The same thing happened to me. They said I couldn't manage because the team went down the first year after Harry Potts gave me the reins. I'm still confident in my own ability."

Crucial

So he should be. But the story of Burnley is not merely the story of Adamson, even if he plays such a crucial, determining part, carrying on the high traditions of coaching laid down there originally by Alan Brown, who sadly and recently left the managership of Sunderland. It is also the story of Bob Lord, a remarkable Chairman in his way, immensely more impressive in that role than as a somewhat reactionary figure on the larger scene. It is the story of Joe Brown, a former centre-half who has been carefully groomed over the years to become the club's chief coach, in succession to Jimmy Adamson himself.

Companion

It is the story of the club's relatively new chief scout, Dave Blakey, once the Chesterfield centre-half and long before even that, a companion of Adamson in Northumberland schoolboy football. "The most important man in Burnley Football Club," Adamson calls him, "because if he doesn't find them, we can't develop them."

Yet there are, as we can see, numerous contenders for the title which Adamson generously bestows on the persistent Blakey, that Mountie of the football world. Jack Butterfield, once a Burnley

•The reason why we've come back is we've been patient. There's been no sackings, no heads rolling•

BOB LORD (Chairman)

Burnley manager Jimmy Adamson.

full-back himself, is surely a formidable contender.

Butterfield, a Yorkshireman, runs the club's astonishingly successful Development Fund, which has been pouring money into Turf Moor for years, building one new stand and providing the funds with which another is now to be built. Butterfield, who broke a leg in Burnley's service. He was persuaded to rejoin them in his present, vital role after working for some years as sports organiser for a large firm. That was in November, 1965. Since then, the Development Association, through its various raffles and draws, has presented the club with £350,000.

Percentage

Even in the relegation season, the total reached £55,000. The average takings in the various draws amount to £2,300 a week, and Butterfield has a loyal little army going around bleak Burnley collecting, often in atrocious weathers, many of them fired by their attachment to the club; for they make a relatively small percentage. Since this season, even with Burnley doing so well, the average gate has been about 12,000, the absolutely indispensable nature of Butterfield's work may easily be gauged.

He is a large, plump, relaxed Yorkshireman whose monumental, even formidable, efficiency goes hand in hand with a good humoured, philosophical approach to the world.

Bob Lord, that irreducible, rubicund, outspoken figure, thinks that 12,000 is a pretty good average, considering the size of Burnley. One spoke to him amidst the hygienic splendours of his new meat factory. Whatever his standing at various times in football at large, he has always been liked and trusted by his players, which is a great deal more than one can say for the majority of club chairmen. I myself respect him for his manifest devotion to the club. I think, like anybody else, he has made mistakes at times, but they have tended to be mistakes of sentimentality; deadwood has occasionally been allowed to rot, rather than being excised.

"As you well know", he said to me. "Burnley is a club that has had to rely mainly on finding youngsters and bringing them along. We had success between 1960 and 1963, and we got a little bit lazy. I noticed at the time, said to the manager; we don't get the quality of youths coming into us. If we'd got youths of 15 years of age coming into us at this time, they would have been ready to come into the first team, ten years later. That is the reason we started descending in 1968. We hadn't the youth, and we had a rotten start to the season, losing three lads with legs broken . . . The reason why we've come back is we've been patient. There's been no sackings, there's been no heads rolling."

Promotion

In fact Harry Potts, once the club's inside-left, then its coach, manager and general manager, left last summer, with a very substantial golden handshake; since when, says Lord, he has not seen him again. (They'll now meet whenever Burnley play Blackpool.) Lord it was who backed Alan Brown when he found the farm at Gawthorpe which was turned, in the fifties, into a training ground for bringing along young talent: "The first source of income was turning flesh and blood into LSD". Lord feels that Coates, who was sold expensively to Tottenham, has not been missed at all. Adamson says that David Thomas, sold to Queens Park Rangers, their rivals for promotion, just wouldn't play for him.

Out at Gawthorpe, which still looks like a farm, the quiet, calm, unassertive Joe Brown runs training, helped by Brian Miller, once a Burnley and England half-back, and another ex-player in George Bray. "I think there's a difference between training and coaching," he says. "You train for fitness, but you coach to develop. For instance, we get boys who are chosen to come to the club for skill, speed, physique. Once they come here, they have to be taught what's required of them in their positions and what's required of them in relation to someone else."

Running through his conversation, almost as a motif, is his satisfaction that at Burnley, coaches are generously paid. "This is where some clubs fall down. They pay the manager well, but not the coach."

This season's team has been enormously strengthened by the arrival of Keith Newton, Everton's England full-back, on . . . a free transfer. He could have gone to a lesser club like Southport and made more money, but chose Burnley and its effervescent youth. None has benefited more from his arrival than Leighton James, whom Dave Blakey spotted and signed as a schoolboy, a winger of immense promise and lively, intelligent disposition.

Balance

A free transfer brought Martin Dobson, who Adamson admires so much for his versatility, skill and balance, from Bolton, while Geoff Nulty, another midfield player, also came for nothing. "A player's player," Adamson calls Dobson, "Marvellous movement, good balance," while of another ex-Bolton man, the centre-forward, Fletcher, he says, " the most 100% player I've seen in my life. He's got the biggest heart I've ever seen in football."

Thus, so it seems, the small miracle can and will continue.

Personal Opinion

by LESLIE VERNON

Bravo Alan, but will they listen?

BRAVO, Alan Hardaker! I have often criticised the worthy League Secretary in the past, but now he has my wholehearted support for his package deal, which intends to revitalise our ailing football scene. By the time these observations appear in print, the hysterical (sorry, historical) meeting of the chairmen will have taken place, and I expect they will have trotted-out the usual double-talk, and watered-down or thrown out the recommendations.

It baffles me that a body of men, most of whom have either inherited or bought themselves these exalted positions, should have the power to kill the game which clearly belongs to the professionals and to the public who support it.

Running football should not be a democratic exercise, it needs a benevolent dictator just as a stage play or a film needs a director, whose word is final. Still, we live in a country of committees, and in an age of community decisions.

But what kind of democracy is it where a two-thirds majority is necessary to bring about a change? The casting vote of the League President should be sufficient in case there is a 50-50 deadlock! Consequently, the most urgent task is to change the constitution of the assembly, but of course, as Reg Drury of the *News of the World* pointed out, you need a two-thirds majority to do that.

Achieved

Once this is achieved, the progressives, like Brian Mears of Chelsea, might do the life-saving act Mr Hardaker begs them to do. Some say that the proposals are not far-reaching enough, just a palliative which would merely slow down the inevitable extinction. I am not quite so pessimistic.

Football is not confined to Europe, and in the emerging countries, it is in a very healthy state indeed. Even in the United States there is a genuine upsurge of "grass-roots" interest, which must augur well for the future. The recently published, alarming UPI report was grossly inaccurate and exaggerated. It talks, for instance, about average attendances of 2,000 in Hungary—6,000 is much nearer the mark, and there was a 50,000 crowd in the Nepstadion for a double header on a freezing December day this season.

In Italy, Belgium, Spain and France, there is also a slight increase in attendances, and successful teams like Bayern Munich, Benfica, Dynamo Dresden, have never had it so good. So put away the coffin, our favourite sport is not yet ready for burial—the sensation-seeking grave-diggers with poisoned typewriters at the ready should look for corpses elsewhere.

Until recently, I was convinced that the laws of the game were perfect, and shouldn't be altered in any way. But this season it became even more apparent that the players are now converging about ten yards of either side of the half-way line, at goal kicks, forming a "moving oblong"—to borrow a phrase from Allan Wade, the FA Coach. It is impossible to do anything spectacularly constructive inside this confined area, with 20 people fighting for a bit of space.

The oblong must be widened and the off-side rule changed. I would divide the pitch into three equal parts—as in ice hockey—and the off-side rule would only apply in the opponent's "third". This would still provide about 34 yards of forbidden territory, and it would not change the character of the game.

It has been proved in the Metropolitan League experiment that the restriction of the off-side on the 18-yard line is not workable, *and makes football more defensive!* My proposal would open it up, because the forwards could position themselves further up-field, leaving more room for the midfield players.

Before the Common Market Wembley game, the two managers, Ramsey and Schöen, agreed that Charlton and Netzer would mark each other. This amicable arrangement ensured that both players would be, in fact, undisturbed and could display their flowing talents to the full.

The match, which according to one writer, had as much physical contact as a broken marriage, was splendid entertainment. However, it must be realised that competitive football is a different proposition. No matter how enterprising or attack-minded the coach is, he would fall down on his job if he did not utilise his players to their best advantage.

As long as they are trained to run non-stop for 90 minutes, there will always be massed defences when the opponents have the ball. The pious talk might go on, but no two managers will ever do a Ramsey-Schöen deal merely to entertain the public—winning is the name of the game!

Inevitably, the Hardaker memorandum contains a chapter dealing with international football. Since I found it quite unintelligible, I quote it in full, and the first reader who sends in the correct solution will be allowed to watch the Football League Cup Final on TV!

"The UEFA Cup competitions are perhaps doing more damage to football than even UEFA understood, because once a club has reached a European Cup competition and the players have tasted success and what

Bobby Charlton, training for the Common Market match at Wembley.

Football League secretary Alan Hardaker.

goes with it, the clubs who do not stay in Europe find it extremely difficult to maintain the standard of remuneration to the players unless they are having success in other national competitions. The UEFA competitions have, in fact, created treadmills for those clubs who enter them, and it is this treadmill effect which is now beginning to show itself in what is happening in the Football League today."

Cylinder

The Oxford Pocket Dictionary says that "treadmill" means either "cylinder turned by man set to", or "monotonous toil". He couldn't possibly mean the cylinder, so it must be the terrible monotonous toil in the dreadful places like Rome, Madrid, Istanbul, etc.

So according to the first interminable sentence, it is better not to play in Europe because it is such a pleasant and lucrative experience that you miss it when you get beaten.

But the second sentence must mean something else—please let me know the answer, these sleepless nights are killing me!

COLIN JOSE reports from Canada

EUROPEAN TOUR IS PROPOSED

CANADA'S national soccer team may well make a tour of Europe and possibly South America this year if the programme presented by the Canadian Soccer Association to the Canadian Government and the Canadian Olympic Committee is approved.

The programme, drawn up by the Canadian team's general manager John McMahon after consultation with coach Frank Pike, was first of all submitted to the National Executive Committee of the Canadian Soccer Association and McMahon tells me: "I understand that they made certain alterations to the schedule and the budget before submitting it to the government, who will be footing the bill. They have not informed me as yet of what these changes were."

McMahon's programme calls for a Canadian Select team to play three games in Canada against touring club sides sometime in May as soon as grounds become playable again. "They would be played in cities where there is interest and where the provincial associations will assume some responsibility for staging the games," McMahon told me. This would probably mean playing in St John's, Newfoundland (where the Canada-US game last summer was an overwhelming success), Toronto and either Winnipeg, Calgary or Vancouver.

Contender

Canada would then go on tour to either Europe or South America, possibly in June, and return home to play in a Canada Cup tournament against Mexico and Costa Rica in August. September calls for the team to travel to either Europe or South America, depending on the location of the earlier tour. If it was in Europe in June it would be in South America in September or vice versa.

This ambitious schedule is, of course, part of an overall programme designed to provide Canada with a real contender for the 1976 Olympics scheduled for Montreal, and it also calls for a more concentrated series of games in 1974. It is then hoped to have the team together for the whole of 1975, a year in which Canada will once again compete in the Pan American games, and continue into 1976 until after the Olympic Games and the preliminary rounds of the 1978 World Cup are completed. All of this will, of course, come under review at the start of each year.

McMahon tells me that he discussed this programme with Dettmar Cramer, the FIFA coach, on his recent tour of Canada and that they were in basic agreement. "However," he said, "Cramer stressed the importance of playing in Eastern Europe because this is where the main Olympic challenge originates." McMahon, though, feels that Canada is nowhere near ready to tackle such nations as the USSR or Hungary and that any Canadian tour of Europe should first play less stern opposition, to obtain the maximum benefit.

In our discussions over the past few months, the Scandinavian nations have been mentioned. "If we were to play one of the stronger nations and get hammered, said McMahon, "it could have a demoralising effect on our players. I feel a more gradual build-up would be more to our advantage."

Schedule

If the Canadian Government comes up with a decision in favour of the programme presented by the Canadian Soccer Association it will mean trying to line up the necessary opposition, bearing in mind, of course, the time of year. It will also mean a larger pool of players, for, as McMahon pointed out, "We cannot expect players, or officials for that matter, to be absent from their work for the six months covered by the schedule."

With one or two exceptions, the Canadian team which completed in the preliminary rounds of the World Cup last summer was amateur, but with the Canadian Olympic Committee being involved in the decision on this programme with the intention of building a strong team for the '76 Olympics, would it be possible to play professionals in any of these games this year? "I think so," said the Scottish-born administrator, who has done so much to put Canada on the soccer map. "Our professionals can be used to help us build a stronger amateur team."

Canada for long an also-ran in sports outside of ice hockey, figure skating and skiing is slowly turning its attention towards trying to produce a better showing in the summer games of 1976. Soccer is in the vanguard of this movement and the approval of this programme for 1973 would further advance the development of a Canadian team.

EDSTROM — A M

ONE of the reasons given for the drop of interest in the game in Sweden is that today there are no real stars, nobody for the fans to look up to like the outstanding player-idols of the '40s, '50s, and perhaps still earlier. With the emergence of Ralf Edstrom in 1972, the remedy is on the way.

It was on August 6 of last year, the occasion an international match between Sweden and the Soviet Union at Stockholm, that the name Ralf Edstrom became a household word all around the country. In only his second international game, Ralf scored three goals, all headers, as Sweden managed to draw with the Russians four all. In two more internationals last fall Ralf was to score five more goals, to become the outstanding goal-getter of the Swedish national side in the season.

Ralf Edstrom, now 20, plays for league champions Atvidaberg. It was in the spring of 1971 when Ralf moved from the small community of Degerfors, in south-central Sweden, whe he had spent all his life and where he had received all h schooling as a footballer. In 1969 Ralf played seven games Degerfors' second division side, and also made his first appea ance in the under-18 national team. In 1970, half the clubs the first division were trying to sign him. Ralf chose Atvid berg, much because it's a small community like Degerfors.

Great impact

Ralf 18 years old, moved to Atvidaberg in the next seaso and played in every one of the league games. He was chos for the under-22 national team, and helped knock Chelsea o of the Cup Winners Cup. But it was not until the 1972 seaso that Ralf Edstrom made his great impact on the game Sweden.

Atvidaberg set new goals record

THE 65 goals scored by champions Atvidaberg in the past season is the highest total in 22 league games since 1960. Great news at a time when goals are few and far between. Thanks to Atvidaberg and its many star players, the Swedish league championship regained some of yesteryear's glamour.

In 1960 Norrkoping were the champions with 75 goals, and the lowest total by a winner in the in-between seasons was 30 by Malmo in 1970. The scoring appetite as a whole is also on the increase. The total number of goals scored in the Swedish first division in 1972 was 402, for an average of three goals a game. One negative record was broken, however, as last-placed Halmstad only managed to find the net a record 14 times in 22 outings.

Scoreless

The biggest victories were won by Djurgarden over Hammarby by 8-1, and by Hammarby over Halmstad by 7-0. Halmstad also managed to be involved in most scoreless draws, on six occasions. As a matter of fact, Halmstad players had to leave the field of battle 13 times without having been able to score a goal.

Six men scored three goals in one game. They were Roland Sandberg, Atvidaberg; Roger Fransson, Hammarby; Mats Werner, Hammarby; Benny Wendt, Norrkoping; Sonny Johansson, Landskrona; and Kenneth Wessberg, GAIS. Ralf Edstrom of Atvidaberg scored all four goals in the 4-1 win over Norrkoping. Top goal-getters were Roland Sandberg, for the second year in a row, and Ralf Edstrom, both of Atvidaberg, with 16 each. Dag Szepanski of AIK was third with 13.

League attendances were down again. The total number of spectators who watched 132 division one matches was 1,025,211, about the same as watch Liverpool alone at HOME in a season. Of course, that is not a fair comparison, as conditions are far from the same, but nonetheless an interesting one to make. The average league gate comes out at 7,765, down by 1,700 from a year ago.

Aggregate

The highest attendance since the league schedule has been played during spring-fall was in 1959, after the World Cup success of the year before, when an average of 13,761 spectators went through the turnstiles. Since then the average has been around 10,000 fans a match. This past season's highest home aggregate was by AIK of Stockholm with 132.392 (plus 9,903 from 1971). The lowest home aggregate is by Atvidaberg, a town with only 9,000 inhabitants, 57,451 (1,053). Olympic Games TV coverage and too much media sport was blamed for low figures.

Despite the poor attendance figures, results as a whole were good. The league provided a great race for the title between two outstanding sides. Atvidaberg and AIK. The national team, after a dismal showing against Austria in the World Cup clash at Vienna in early summer, came back to show promise towards the end of the season. The final international match of the year, against Malta for a World Cup ticket, kept Swedish hopes alive for a spot in West Germany in 1974. The emergence of a new star, Ralf Edstrom, will give Swedish fans something to talk about.

As for the new year, changes will be made in the make-up of the league. The number of participating sides in division I and II will be increased from 12 to 14. The changes have been possible through a reorganisation during the past three seasons. In 1971 there was a first division with 12 sides, as well as four regional second divisions also with 12 members each. In 1972 the number of regional second divisions was reduced to three, but still with 12 participating sides in each.

This year the reorganisation will be completed as the number of regional division II will come to two, and the number of sides in each group, as well as in division I, will be increased to 14. To allow for the changes in the number of sides in Division I, only one club, Halmstad, was relegated, and all three winners of Division II were promoted. These winners were, from the North, Sirius of Uppsala; from the Central division, Saab of Linkoping (first time ever); and from the South, Elfsborg of Boras. In division II, altogether 12 teams were relegated and only six were promoted.

EW STAR

In the spring half of the schedule he did not attract much attention. He scored only two goals in 11 games, and in his first appearance for a full cap against Denmark in June, he was pretty anonymous. Then came his sensational breakthrough against USSR. Besides scoring eight goals for the national side in three games, he also scored 14 more for his club to be joint winner of the Division I goal race with 16. Tall Ralf, 191 cm, made his mark mostly as an accomplished header of the ball, and scored about half the goals in the air.

Towards the end of the season, Ralf was elected "Footballer of the Year". Professional clubs in many parts of Europe showed their interest, but in the end it was PSV Eindhoven from Holland that managed to get his valuable signature to a contract. The contract runs from August 1973 until January 1976.

Until August Ralf will serve in the Swedish army, and continue to play for Atvidaberg. Another interesting fact around the signing is that some of the money that Atvidaberg will receive goes to the club, Degerfors, that started Ralf off on his career as the most promising footballer to come out of Sweden for years.

STELLAN DANIELSSON reports from Sweden

The picture shows Ralf Edstrom in action against Malta in the World Cup qualification match won by Sweden 7-0.

CRUZ AZUL —TOP TEAM

CARLOS F. RAMIREZ from Mexico

AMAZING as it sounds, the Mexican season for 1972-73 got-off to a better start than the one before — which in turn had broken all previous attendance records. However, quality of football has maintained its previous level —if anything top teams have proven too strong for the poorer, small provincial teams.

Cruz Azul, 1971-72 champions, started in great shape. They are by far the best team in the League. They boast a solid defence, sustained by Guzmán and the Chilean Quintano; a strong midfield, where Pulido maintains his reputation as the best Mexican player in that position; and a strikers' line with Argentinian Gómez and the Mexicans Muciño and Bustos in top form.

Cruz Azul have gained 16 points out of 22 (they have played two games less than the rest, since a strike in the National University Workers' Union prevented their match against Universidad; and a second match was postponed because of prior commitments to play in South America, against Nacional in Montevideo for the Latin American Cup.

América of Mexico City, last year's runners-up, have shown poor form and they trail four points behind Atlas of Guadalajara. The eighteen teams in the First Division are divided into two groups of nine each. The winners of each group will play against the second placed teams at the end of the calendar, and in turn the winners will play the deciding final match.

This formula—used last year—is not too satisfying from a sporting point of view, but is good for box office receipts. Incidentally, the same formula applies to the last placed to decide who goes to Second Division.

Two old Mexican international players have changed teams. Antonio Carbajal, the old reliable goalkeeper (five World Cups played) left León and was replaced by Albrecht, the Argentinian player who now will also be the coach. (Albrecht set a record last year, scoring 14 goals from penalty-kicks). The other one was Javier De la Torre.

After 15 years as Technical Director of Guadalajara (in which time he won eight League championships, and the Cup twice) De la Torre has resigned. Nothing is working well with Guadalajara, the most popular team of Mexican football. As a result they are in last place of their group, a fair reward for their poor performances.

De la Torre was faced earlier in the season with the decision of either continuing full-time with Guadalajara, or taking the Mexican national side as a full-time job. He had decided to remain with Guadalajara, but the poor performances of the team plus the fact that no Mexican coach wanted the job of heading the National side forced De la Torre to reconsider.

He will now concentrate in helping Mexico gain access to the 1974 World Cup. Under his guidance the team has already won the North American subgroup and now will have to play the CONCACAF final tournament against the Caribbean and Central American winners. The Mexican Federation wants this tournament to be played in Mexico City; but Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica have adopted an attitude of "wait and see", meaning that they want to find out who the other five finalists are.

It is logical that if Guatemala or Costa Rica are eliminated, either one will claim the right to stage the final tournament as "neutral ground", however tempting might be a gross box office in the Aztec Stadium (105,000) against Guatemala (40,000) or San José (35,000) facilities.

The surprise team of the season has been so far Atlas of Guadalajara, reappearing in First Division after a year in the Second Division. The bought a young, fast and effective Brazilian player, Amaury Da Silva and kept one of the recent Mexican revelations, Ricardo Chavarin who is currently topping the individual scorers' table with nine goals. They also have the Uruguayan Ferreira and the Brazilian Bonifacino, and kept basically the same young team which helped them to regain access to First Division.

GREEK GAME A VOLCANO

Post-war survey . . . by Eric Batty

ONE of the strangest quirks in modern sport is the Greeks inability to control their emotions and what makes it doubly strange is the fact that this was the country which began the Olympic movement with its emphasis not on winning but on participation. Of course, the ancient games took place a long time ago and much has changed also in the intervening years even in other parts of the world.

In particular I think of the words 'fair-play' coined by the English not too long ago—and see today how the thugs masquerading in football shirts kick lumps off each other in Yorkshire, Lancashire and London—all in the name of sport.

To be too critical of the Greeks, as many English fans may tend to be, is to be hypocritical. Let's put our own house in order before we condemn the Greeks, Argentinians or anyone else.

Unique system

Yet the fact remains that the Greek temperament is particularly unsuited to football today and it is a fact for many years the Greek authorities have recognised this fact. As a result they have a unique system in their national league that has no parallel anywhere else in the world.

Only in Greece do the winners of a league match get three points and the losing side one. For drawn matches the points are shared evenly: two each.

This system was introduced because so many games had to be abandoned when referees gave penalties that could not be taken because players kept kicking the ball away from the spot or refused to leave the penalty

LEADING SCORER
Regional leagues only and except as stated, end of season play offs

Kouroukidis (PAOK S.)	7
Hristofidis (Proodeftiki)	15
Geogopoulos (Panionios)	15
Nestoridis (AEK Athens)	21
Nestoridis (AEK Athens)	33
Nestoridis (AEK Athens)	27
Nestoridis (AEK Athens)	29
Nestoridis (AEK Athens)	23
Papaioanou (AEK A.)	29
Sideris (Olympiakos)	29
Papaioanou (AEK A.)	24
Sideris (Olympiakos)	22
Intzoglou (Panionios)	24
Sideris (Olympiakos)	35
Antoniadis (Panath'kos)	25
Dedes (Panionios)	28
Antoniadis (Panath'kos)	39

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES

Olympiakos	17
Panathinaikos	11
AEK Athens	5
Aris Salonika	3

FA CUP VICTORIES

Olympiakos	14
AEK Athens	7
Panathinaikos	5
Ethnikos, Aris Salonika, PAOK Salonika	1

		P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P
1945–46	Aris Salonika						
1946–47	Olympiakos						
1947–48	Olympiakos						
1948–49	Panathinaikos						
1949–50	No competition						
1950–51	Olympiakos						
1951–52	No Competition						
1952–53	Panathinaikos						
1953–54	Olympiakos						
1954–55	Olympiakos						
1955–56	Olympiakos	18	12	5	1	39.11	47
1956–57	Olympiakos	20	14	3	3	43.11	51
1957–58	Olympiakos	22	14	5	3	40.14	55
1958–59	Olympiakos	18	14	2	2	43.19	48
1959–60	Panathinaikos*	30	22	5	3	61.21	79
1960–61	Panathinaikos	30	23	4	3	71.23	80
1961–62	Panathinaikos	30	23	5	2	88.32	81
1962–63	AEK Athens*	30	20	7	3	68.23	77
1963–64	Panathinaikos	30	24	6	0	68.19	84
1964–65	Panathinaikos	30	20	9	1	76.19	79
1965–66	Olympiakos	30	23	4	3	67.18	80
1966–67	Olympiakos	30	21	7	2	59.17	79
1967–68	AEK Athens	34	22	6	6	68.24	84
1968–69	Panathinaikos	34	26	4	4	64.16	90
1969–70	Panathinaikos	34	27	5	2	69.15	93
1970–71	AEK Athens	34	23	8	3	67.18	68
1971–72	Panathinaikos	34	24	6	4	89.23	88

Note: * won on goal average after finishing level on points and drawing a play-off.

FA CUP FINALS

No competition			
Olympiakos	5	Iraklis	0
Panathinaikos	2	AEK Athens	1
AEK Athens	2	Panathinaikos	1*
AEK Athens	4	Aris Salonika	0
Olympiakos	4	PAOK Salonika	0
Olympiakos	2	Panionios	0**
Olympiakos	3	AEK Athens	2
Olympiakos	2	Doksa Drama	0
Panathinaikos	2	PAOK Salonika	0
AEK Athens	2	Olympiakos	1
Olympiakos	2	Iraklis	0
Olympiakos	5	Doksa Drama	1
Olympiakos	2	Doksa Drama	1
Olympiakos	3	Panathinaikos	0***
Olympiakos	3	Panionios	0
Competition abandoned			
Olympiakos	3	Pierikos	0
Competition abandoned			
Olympiakos	1	Panathinaikos	0
AEK Athens	2	Olympiakos	0
Panathinaikos	1	Panionios	0
Olympiakos	1	Panathinaikos	0
Panathinaikos	1	Olympiakos	1****
Aris Salonika	1	PAOK Salonika	0
Olympiakos	3	PAOK Salonika	1
PAOK Salonika	2	Panathinaikos	1

Notes:
* Replay after 0—0 draw
** Replay after 2—2 draw
*** Replay after 1—1 draw
**** After extra time, Panathinaikos won toss

Panathinaikos—back row left to right: Gonios, Economopoulos, Kapsis, Dimitriou, Vlahos, Eleftherakis. Front: Grammos, Demello, Antoniadis, Domazos, Veron.

area. Other games have come to a premature end because players having been ordered off refuse to leave the field and so years ago the Greek FA decided on giving a point to the losing team as long as the game was played out for its customary ninety minutes.

However, although this system would have had its effect in other countries and, to be fair, has had some influence on the Greeks it has not entirely solved the problem. Even with the league championship at stake on the last day of the season in the 1964-65 season the Greek temperament won.

Ordered off

Panathinaikos that day were virtual champions. Three points ahead of their neighbours AEK, Panathinaikos had 77 points while AEK had 74. If AEK won their match at home to Olympiakos then they would have 77 points but all Panathinaikos had to do was take the field away to Niki at Volos, lose and get their point to win the title.

At half time the players rushed off the pitch to listen to the radio and heard that in Athens, AEK were winning 3—0. They had to play their game to a finish and then they were champions whatever. Then in the second half the referee ordered off the Panathinaikos player Panoussakis . . . and he refused to go!

His team mates threatened him and begged him to go, but he refused. Club officials and the team manager poured onto the pitch to try and persuade him but it was no good. Panoussakis would not go off—the referee was an idiot.

As things turned out Panathinaikos got no point, but by a miracle, they still won the championship because in Athens, Olypiakos had staged a second half comeback and their star forward Georges Sideris took a hat trick to earn a 3—3 draw and take the vital point from AEK.

Abandoned twice

Twice since the war the FA Cup has been abandoned in similar circumstances. A year before the Panathinaikos fiasco the Cup had been awarded to AEK Athens after a riotous semi final between Panathinaikos and Olympiakos.

AEK won their semi final against Pierikos without any trouble but in the other match the players fouled and argued, constantly disputing the referees decisions. With the score at 1—1, the crowd were incensed by a referee's decision and began a riot.

Safety fences were smashed, the goals were torn down while the pitch was littered with bottles and boxes from beer stalls etc. When these two teams had met in 1963 another riot had resulted in three deaths, more than 100 injured in hospital and another 100 arrested.

Cars were set on fire indiscriminately and the match officials had locked themselves in the stand waiting for police re-inforcements. Certainly the Greek FA have acted vigorously. For the semi-final scandal of 1964 both teams were ruled out of the competition; both teams were barred from playing friendlies or travelling abroad for six months and Olympiakos who had already began their summer (Rappan) Cup games were replaced by Panionios. But it seems a Greek is a Greek, is a Greek.

BASEL AHEAD AT HALF-WAY

Swiss report from .... Arthur Rotmil

SWISS soccer has relapsed into its customary winter hibernation after 14 championship rounds, and the Cup quarter-finals had been completed, in mid-December. The second half of the season will be resumed on March 4, with a full League programme. A number of clubs made arrangements to visit warmer climates, but all players will be kept active and physically in trim, in some form or another. Whilst ski-ing for example, is frowned upon by most managers—the risk of breaking a leg is too great—it is usually left to the individual and is entirely his own responsibility. British professionals may be faintly amused at the thought but dozens of Swiss players actually ski in the winter months!

At the break, football-wise of course, the title holders Basel led the field with a two-point advantage over a quartet composed of Winterthur, Grasshoppers, Sion and Lugano. Despite a disastrous start—only two points from the opening four games and the first home defeat for four years!—the Basler outfit climbed to the top and stayed clear, by precisely those couple of points which they took off their most persistent challengers, Grasshoppers.

Dreaded drop

But only three points covered the first seven clubs—that is to say, half the League! Third placed Grasshoppers have scored in every match and, in fact, scored most goals, 34, whilst Winterthur have conceded the fewest (14). At the bottom, Fribourg (9 points), St. Gallen (8) and Grenchen (7), will be fighting it out to avoid the dreaded drop.

The tight situation at the top promises some exciting battles to come in the spring and should contribute to an improvement in attendances. In the first half of the season, gates were down by over 100,000. The average has dropped from 7,700, for the corresponding period of last year, to 6,600 per match. Not one game drew more than 20,000 spectators. The biggest clubs have suffered the most in this respect, for a number of unfashionable teams have reported an increase in attendance figures.

Basic differences

Another interesting statistic shows that 25 per cent of the goals had been scored by foreigners and that the goal ratio has declined from 3,15 to 2,81 per match. Of the clubs who are determined to find out just why the fans are deserting football, the most original idea was launched by FC Zurich. Spectators arriving at the turnstiles for a recent game were presented with questionnaires, in which they were asked to offer constructive criticism of the club and its amenities.

The replies produced some revealing views which underlined—among other aspects—the basic differences between Swiss and English football. For instance: 72,3 per cent of the fans complained that the players are not putting in enough effort! But 89 per cent declared themselves satisfied with the comfort of the stadium; 56,7 per cent did not think that the admission prices were too high!; 71,9 per cent want the championship to run from March till November; 58,8 per cent would like to see schoolboy games to precede the League games. But 69,5 per cent are critical of the "unattractive" style of play.

As a first step to meet the wishes of the public, the FC Zurich began admitting all school kids till the age of 16, free of charge. Admission prices will, as from now, be fixed in accordance with the importance of the game, or the status of the opposition. And in addition, the club will make it easier for the fans to become members of the club!...

Home-and-away

The Cup quarter-finals, played on a home-and-away basis, brought not a single home win in first leg matches! Even the holders Zurich failed to beat the modest Etoile Carouge from the Second Division. It was however a totally different story in the return in Geneva where against the odds the favourites took revenge by 4-0. Zurich will meet Winterthur next, their neighbours having disposed of Sion, winning each leg by the same score of 2-1. Champions Basel triumphed in Chiasso by 2-0 and followed up at home to the tune of 5-3. The outstanding man on the field was the famous international forward Karl Odermatt, who celebrated his 30th birthday with a couple of goals.

But the biggest sensation was sprang by Biel, from the Second Division, who, after a 1-1 home draw, eliminated mighty Grasshoppers (13 time Cup winners!) by defeating them in Zurich 1-0. The winning goal, coming just four minutes from the end, was apparently fisted in by Jean-Michel Dirac. The controversy over this decisive goal gathered momentum when the TV film showed Dirac punching the ball into the net, although the player claims to have used his head—or maybe he meant this metaphorically!

Missed chances

Anyway it was a sad exit for the proud Grasshopper-Club who nonetheless have only themselves to blame for missing chances in a manner which would have disgraced raw amateurs in a minor league. There was more woe for this clubs just before Christmas, when their international striker Kudi Müller was signed up by the German Bundesliga club Hertha Berlin.

Neither club would divulge any financial details of this transfer, but in usually well informed circles it is rumoured that Müller will receive a £7,200 signing-on fee spread over the first six months. A further £7,200 bonus in the first and second year, an annual salary of £6,480, plus a special bonus of £60 for each point.

Racing White drop points

BELGIUM

RACING WHITE lost a good chance of reducing the gap with FC Bruges at the top of the Belgian League by dropping a home point to the leaders. Bruges' 1—1 draw leaves them with 25 points from 15 games with Racing White third on 19 points and Standard Liege sandwiched between on 20 points.

But it was probably no surprise that Racing White only drew as it was their ninth draw of the season although they have lost only once and conceded just seven goals — easily the best defensive record in the table.

Apart from picking up five cheap goals at Lierse recently when the home centre half was struggling, not fully fit after injury, the Racing attack has badly let them down.

Top scorers on the resumption after the Christmas festivities were Anderlecht, 5—2 winners at Beringen whose trainer Joseph Vliers is recovering from injuries sustained in a car crash.

Anderlecht recently parted company with their trainer Georges Kessler after one year and three months of a four year contract. Relationships between the aloof Kessler and the Anderlecht players gradually became worse and with results not improving the end was seemingly inevitable.

The most unfortunate player in the championship, Standard Liege's international Wilfried Van Moer, is once again on the injured list and must be considered as doubtful for forthcoming World Cup qualifying matches.

His club colleague goalkeeper Christian Piot played for The Six against The Three in the Common Market match at Wembley — for the first 45 minutes that is. But he was luckier than Anderlecht's Paul Van Himst who sat on the bench throughout until twenty minutes from the end when Helmut Schoen the Six trainer asked him if he wanted to go on. Thoroughly fed up by this time, Van Himst declined, saying that he was too cold.

BENFICA GO ON AND ON!

PORTUGAL

BENFICA'S 17th consecutive League win of the season in which they beat Boavista 4—1 established a new record in the Portuguese First Division. The previous best run was set up by Sporting Lisbon in 1947 with 16 consecutive wins.

Eusebio, while not in his free scoring mood of the opening weeks, is still finding the net and there appears to be no holding the Green Eagles of Estoril.

Even during the pause for the preliminary cup rounds, the traditional signal for the playing of the Cup of Honour between the capital's top four clubs the tournament ended predictably. After beating Belenenses 3—0, Benfica won the cup by defeating Atletico 5—3.

Elsewhere there has been some trouble. At Barreiro when Belenenses played there after a trip to Madrid, to play in Francisco Gento's Benefit match, the visitors were soon leading 2—0 thanks to refereeing decisions which did not please the Barreirense crowd.

The crowd came on and it was some time before order was restored and the game restarted. At half-time another goal had been surrendered when the announcement was made by club officials that the home team would not take part in the second half! After 35 minutes of total confusion, the Barreirense team finally emerged and were beaten 5—1.

A disputed penalty converted by the Argentinian centre forward Yazalde gave Sporting Lisbon the points over visiting Vitoria Setubal who had a man sent off for their pains, too.

Sporting themselves crashed 3—0 at home to Porto the visitors first win there since 1962. And Porto have now clinched the signing of an Argentinian themselves in Juan Carlos Herodia from the Spanish club Barcelona. This should help them to improve on their middle of the table position.

PAOK STILL WELL AHEAD

GREECE

PAOK SALONIKA are still making it difficult for the rest of the teams in the Greek League to catch them and after 15 matches are the only unbeaten team in the First Division.

The gap at the top is only two points, however, with Olympiakos second and Panathinaikos three points away from POAK in third place.

Despite the Salonika team's lead, it continues to be Panathinaikos who make the headlines. Their recent home game with Olympiakos was a crucial one and might well prove decisive in the final reckoning.

Panathinaikos officials and particularly manager Ferenc Puskas were incensed by the failure of the referee to award a penalty when their winger Harry Grammos was downed in the penalty area. Instead the official gave them a free kick outside the box.

Olympiakos finally won 1—0 and it was the first time in two years that Panathinaikos had been beaten at home.

Contract

Afterwards Puskas said that Greek referees were useless and demanded foreign officials controlling the top games. He was backed by his directors and at one time there was a threat of Panathinaikos withdrawing from the league — but naturally it did not come to this.

Puskas' contract ends in the summer and he will almost certainly be leaving Greece. During his reign he has helped to put Greek club football on the map of Europe with their gallant attempt to win the European Cup in 1971.

The Panathinaikos centre forward Antonis Atoniadis has recovered his scoring form in recent weeks and a spell of seven goals in three weeks put him back among the top marksmen.

TV and foo must live a

WITH attendances at League matches clearly on the wane from the start of the current campaign the fact has now been belatedly acknowledged by the Football League. When the heads come up from the sand at Lytham St. Annes it must be accepted as fact for they are the very last—publicly at least—to read the writing on the wall. Even if it is in English and the message quite unmistakable.

There is, of course, as the League indicate in their proposals to stem soccer's crisis, too much soccer on television. But I would analyse that and go a little further: there is too much *bad football* and too much of it shown on TV. I refer particularly to those abominations the Watney Cup, the Texaco Cup and the Anglo-Italian tournament.

Let there be no mistake about it. The football-on-TV boom began in earnest in 1966 when England staged the World Cup. Until then football on TV was probably the biggest single cause for marriage breakdowns and marital arguments. In the years before 1966 the audience for football on TV was exclusively male with the womenfolk moaning: "Not football again. Switch it off." This sentiment was echoed on other evenings when the ladies of the house wanted to watch programmes like Emergency Ward Ten. Nothing divided the country and each family like TV.

Everything changed in 1966 for even the women got hooked on soccer and since then ITV jumped into the market seriously.

The conflict of interests between football and television was bound to come out into the open once the ITV became

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MY VIEW by ERIC BATTY

The views expressed in this article by Eric Batty are his own. But what do you, our readers, think of the current conflict between television and football? Send your views to: The Editor, World Soccer, 79 Temple Chambers, London, E.C.4. Please keep your letters as concise as possible.

as eager to screen soccer as the BBC. This is not to suggest that the BBC were wiser or shrewder to have got in first for they all have the same problems: to fill umpteen hours of screen time every week and to keep an eye on the ratings. Football is better than a blank screen any time . . . or so they say. My own view, watching some of the *football* programmes has been quite different — I leave my seat and switch off.

Excited

My own approach is probably different to that of most viewers just as it is at live games. I sit in the stand looking, but not necessarily following the ball. When goals are scored I often find myself studying someone's backside for up to a minute, for I am notoriously the non-excitable kind. I learned years ago that if you get excited you get carried away and miss half of what is going on. Therefore I stay in my seat and look.

My approach to the ball is similar. Watch the ball and you don't see the game in its full context. This applies particularly to TV producers and camera crews. Occasionally one finds a real plum while watching football on TV . . . a big kick or, to be kind, an intended long pass that goes astray . . . and the camera dutifully follows the ball.

Basic theme

Every now and again we are treated to an empty screen—empty that is except for the ball which as we all know is to be watched, but not to the exclusion of all else. Keep your eyes on the ball the coaching books say—*but they are wrong.* Only by constantly looking around can anyone know where to play the ball, and this is especially true of the ball that puts the recipient in trouble when it comes to him in tight situations.

Returning to the basic theme, which is football and TV, I am not amongst those that believe the two to be incompatible. Indeed, I would go further, much further, and state categorically that they can help each other; they need each other.

Unfortunately neither the TV moguls nor the football hierarchy seems to be aware of the possibilities and the necessities.

What TV does for football in its present form is threefold:

1. It provides much needed cash in large quantities.

2. It glamourises the game, advertising it by editing out the kicking and nastiest fouls and retaliatory kicks.

3. It spreads untrue and awful propaganda about the game in other countries and the virtues of the brilliant football we are allegedly being shown.

It is for the third reason that I often turn off the sound when watching the game on the box because I find that the serious comments of the alleged experts are sometimes so ridiculously funny that I have difficulty controlling my laughter and therefore cannot concentrate on looking.

Subsidy

Before considering what football does for TV, let us consider further the three major things that the box does for the game. First, the money. This is a problem that the League have never yet faced up to. They welcome the cash because it helps to prevent more Accrington Stanleys who fold up in-season because they cannot pay their bills. But this form of subsidy is not appreciated by the lower clubs who need it most, for they go on living beyond their means 20 years after it became clear that they should have become part-time professionals.

They live on with the aid of their share of the TV and Pools cash in the hope that they will discover another George Best and sell him for £500,000 to Manchester United or Arsenal. The sooner the Third and Fourth Division clubs leave the alleged "big" scene for regional football the better for them, but I fear they will have to be forced to go rather than quit. Therefore the loss of television's money if it came to that would only do good by hastening the modernisation of the game.

There can be no doubt that TV is dressed-up publicity for football. To blame television when they have taken money and given the nod *and* ensured by the nature of things that only the best is screened is sheer hypocrisy on the part of the League.

I cannot claim to have seen the contract but from observation I *know* that both the TV companies edit out much of the nasty stuff. Many a time I've been at matches where the cameras were and watching again later I wait for a second look at what I considered to be a particularly nasty foul. Time after time I have been disappointed. Therefore if I see what appears to be a clean game without bad fouls why shouldn't my naturally suspicious mind assume that it was a dirty game and that either the cameras didn't get the clogging (because they were watching the ball) or because the editor cut it out in accordance with the commandment: though shalt not knock the product.

Here, however, TV does football a disservice—or, put another way, football harms itself. Bearing in mind that most, if not all, the nasty fouls are cut out and only the most exciting incidents are shown on the screen together with the individual bits of inspired action and goalmouth scrambles, it is no wonder that many people are persuaded to go and see a real game.

That was what happened in 1966-67 season when even grandmothers, having caught the bug during July, were eager to go and see the real thing with their husbands and sons. The real thing didn't match anticipation and neither did the standards of comfort, not to mention the often pathetic toilet facilities at many grounds.

Woodwork

What happened then is simply stated. Having been conned into going to watch the real thing by what they saw on the box they found after a while that the game was not as exciting as it seemed. As the game as a whole became more defensive with 4-4-2 predominant and women particularly neither being good at nor interested in mathematics, the crowds began to dwindle. While everyone craved goals and goal-mouth scrambles, near misses and shots rebounding off the woodwork, they were treated to boring midfield battles designed by managers and coaches to prevent the fans seeing what they paid to see. No wonder they stopped coming.

Though I don't like the way that football is currently presented on TV I will admit it has one great advantage over seeing football live. If it turns out to be a rubbish game the switch is just a few feet away. On the other hand if you've travelled from London to Manchester or Leeds to see a game and you find yourself bored after ten minutes, it's an awful long way home.

However, it is my firm conviction that football and TV must learn to live together. Indeed I am sure they will but like all things British I'm not at all sure that they will arrive at the right solution in my life-time or indeed in the time of anyone now living.

SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES INTERNATIONAL RECORD—1972

	Home						Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	+ W	D	L	F	A	%
Brazil	5	4	1	—	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	90
Argentina	12	1	1	—	2	—	7	1	2	24	11	75
Paraguay	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	13	5	70
Uruguay	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	6	6	37
Peru	10	1	—	1	3	4	2	1	5	8	11	35
Chile	6	—	—	1	3	4	2	—	3	5	10	33
Venezuela	5	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	3	17	30
Bolivia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	12	25
Colombia	6	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	4	8	15	25
Ecuador	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	7	17

FEW MATCHES TO RECORD

INTERNATIONAL activity, between national selections, was practically nil in South America last year, apart from Brazil's Independence Cup tournament which has already been reported in WORLD SOCCER. In fact, only nine games were played during 1972 on the Continent, while Uruguay and Peru played a number of games in Europe.

Brazil played four games to win the Independence Cup and one other friendly at home, versus Paraguay which they just won 3-2. Thus they ended another year undefeated and they have now gone through 34 full internationals without defeat. They were last beaten in March, 1970, by Argentina who won 2-1 at Porto Alegre.

All 10 member countries of the South American Football Confederation participated in the Independence Cup, but apart from that, Ecuador and Bolivia were completely inactive.

Argentina, where Juan Pizzuti's reign as national coach ended after the Independence Cup, are now under the former Juventus star, Omar Sivori. They changed their line-up completely after the tournament in Brazil and in their last international appearances they capped players who are as yet unknown outside the country, but they have put up a couple of creditable performances on retaining the "Dittborn" Cup verses Chile and in winning the newly instituted "Mariscal Ramón Castilla" Cup versus Peru.

Uruguay, Chile and Peru have also brought in new blood, while the other countries just selected teams to fulfill their engagements in the Independence Cup tournament.

This year will see more international activity by South American countries with the playing of World Cup preliminary group games, while Argentina and Brazil have scheduled tours in Europe, the former at the beginning of the year, while the latter, who has of course no preliminary World Cup commitments, during June and July.

Bustos, of Cruz Azul and Mexico.

READERS' LETTERS

REGARDS your question (January issue) as to which English players can be regarded as World Class, it's a sad reflection to say that only Gordon Banks can be classed as such within these isles.

We read all too often superlatives about our mediocre players. Recently one famous English daily newspaper described Norman Hunter "as the best back four player in the world". Just where does this leave the vastly overrated Bobby Moore? The pair of them pale in comparison to Perfumo, Ancheta, Holzer, Beckenbauer.

The Manchester City manager, Malcolm Allison, stated that Colin Bell was Europe's No. 1 midfield player. Having recently watched Red Star at Tottenham, I became convinced that England doesn't have a forward in the same class as Acimovic, let alone Drajic.

Ball skill has nearly gone from the English scene. Keegan is the only bright hope . . . but then again he is no Cruyff.

M. WATSON,
Manchester 14.

I AGREE with your comments (January issue) that the British Press overrate many players. The players I feel are world class are Gordon Banks, Bobby Moore, Paul Madeley, Colin Todd and Roy McFarland.

All these players are defenders. I think there are many international class forwards in England but none of them world class. If I were asked to select a World XI, only Moore and Best would be selected from Britain.

I feel that the decline in attendances is due to a lack of individual skill and the lack of consistency in referees' decisions. I find that with most teams the emphasis is on physical fitness and stamina and that skill and practice in shooting and passing are neglected.

R. LANGLEY,
Roath, Cardiff.

HAVING returned to Scotland from England quite recently, I feel able to offer some reasons for the comparative failure of the English national side.

It seems to me that there are two main reasons. First, the number of important players in the Football League who are not eligible to play for England. Although it is rarely mentioned, England has the largest number of "foreign" players of any country in Europe and I am surprised the F.A. should remain unperturbed by this while bolting the door against players from the Continent.

The English team needs players of the likes of Giles (Leeds), Cooke (Palace), Hope (Birmingham), Gilzean (Spurs), Gemmill (Derby) and Hartford (WBA).

Secondly, there is no outstanding club team which could form the basis of a national side. If it were possible to combine the best of Leeds and Liverpool, some of England's problems might be solved.

L. PHEMISTER,
Edinburgh 9.

Palmeiras impress

News from Brazil by HANS HENNINGSEN

SOCIEDADE Esportive Palmeiras are, without doubt, the best team in Brazil at present. But the recently finished championship was one of the worst ever witnessed in this country. It was defensive and with a low technical level.

Of the 325 matches played, in the preliminary and final rounds, 64 ended 0-0, 67 finished 1-0 and 44 were 1-1 draws. What made the most attractive football in the world so defensive and boring?

I must say that despite the marathon programme each club faced —25 matches in 89 days, over 100 hours of jet travel—despite the fatigue, despite having little time for training, the principle reason was the attitude of most managers—who ordered their sides to play for a draw rather than risk defeat.

The managers and players blame the Brazilian Football Association (CBD) for organising such a hectic fixture programme. The CBD answered that it was necessary because of the Independence Cup and that the clubs should redice their local championships. After all, said the CBD, the top clubs played only 75 matches in a year—not high by European standards.

There are other factors in my opinion. The high level of indiscipline and violence. Never have we had so many players sent off in Brazil; not only for violence but for disputing referees' decisions.

However, I must add that despite the poor performances of the teams, some individuals fared very well. The best of them all was Ademir da Guia, a midfield player with Palmeiras. Da Guia was an international in 1965/66 but did not figure in the plans of Zagalo.

Goalscorer

His style can be compared with Beckanbauer and probably he will be in Europe with the national squad next June. Other distinguished players were: Rivelino (in fine form), Dirceu Lopes, Carlos Alberto, Marinho, Alfredo and the great Figeuroa (ex-Chile and Penarol). Also Pedro Rocha; he was top goalscorer along with Dario with 17 goals.

The financial plight of most Brazilian clubs is still chronic, which explains why there have been few transfers. America Mineiro recently sold their ground and Botafogo are to do the same. The club has debts of around 1,200,000 US dollars and some Rio clubs are in the same boat.

The CBD's technical commission held a meeting in December of last year to discuss names for the forthcoming trip to Europe. It was a secret meeting but I can reveal the names of the probable squad:

Goalkeepers: Leao, Wendell, Renate; Defenders: Carlos Alberto, Ze Maria, Brito, Vantuir, Piazza, Marinho (Santos), Marinho (Botafogo), Marco Antonio, Luis Pereira; Midfield: and forwards: Clodoaldo, Rivelino, Dirceu Lopes, Gerson, Paulo Cesar, Jairzinho, Valdomire, Tostao, Dario, Leivinha, Lula.

Claudio Coutinho, CBD supervisor and a physical trainer in Mexico, has signed a contract with the Peru Football Association to help with their World cup preparations. Coutinho says that Peru have some good players and he is confident they can beat Russia. . . . Brazil will play eight matches in Europe, not 11 as was originally planned. England, France and Switzerland turned down the World Cup holders. Morocco, Tunisia, Austria, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia and Scotland said yes.

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified

EUROPEAN CUP
second round second leg

Ajax (2) 3 (Cryuff 2, Blankenburg)
CSKA Sofia (0) 0

UEFA CUP
third round

Cologne (0) 0
Borussia Moenchengladbach (0) 0
Borussia Moenchengladbach (2) 5 (Kulik, Vogts, Jensen 2, Rupp)
Cologne (0) 0

Ararat Erevan (1) 2 (Sanasanjan pen, Kasarjan)
Kaiserslautern (0) 0
Kaiserslautern (1) 2 (Bitz, Hubert pen)
Ararat Erevan (0) 0 (Kaiserslautern won on penalty kicks)

OFK Belgrade (0) 0
Beroe Stara Zagora (0) 0
Beroe Stara Zagora (0) 1
OFK Belgrade (1) 3 ( )

Porto (0) 1 (Abel)
Dynamo Dresden (1) 2 (Richter, Hafner)
Dynamo Dresden (0) 1 (Richter)
Porto (0) 0

Tottenham Hotspur (1) 2 Chivers, Gilzean)
Red Star Belgrade (0) 0
Red Star Belgrade (0) 1 (Lazarevic)
Tottenham Hotspur (0) 0

Dynamo Berlin (0) 0
Liverpool (0) 0
Liverpool (2) 3 (Boersma, Heighway, Toshack)
Dynamo Berlin (1) 1 (Netz)

Vitoria Setubal (1) 2 (Duda, Bini o.g.)
Inter-Milan (0) 0
Inter-Milan (1) 1 (Boninsegna pen)
Vitoria Setubal (0) 0

Twente (2) 3 (Castellano o.g., Van der Kerkhof, Pahlplatz)
Las Palmas (0) 0
Las Palmas (1) 2 (Noly, German pen)
Twente (0) 1 (Khume)

DECEMBER 10

Turkey (2) 3 (Osman 2, 1 pen, Koksal)
Luxembourg (0) 0

Turkey: Sabri; Ahmet, Ozer, Ismail, Sekeriya, Ziya, Fouat, Koksal, Metin, Osman, Mehmet.
Luxembourg: Zender; Kirsch, Fleghi, Jeitz, Da Graca, Fandel, Philip, Trieveler, Dussier, Hoffmann, De Genova.

DECEMBER 5

Senegal (1) 1 (Louis Gomis)
Morocco (1) 2 (Ghazouani, Petchou)

Senegal: Demba M'Baye; Alioune Gueye, Malick Diallo, M'Doup, Ba, Eusebio, Louis Gomb, Samba Camara (Diop), Yamagor (Lisoto), Badou Gueye, Bamba Diarra, Diallo Poulho.
Morocco: Hazzaz; Boujemaa, Larbi I, Abdallah, Larbi II, Zahraoui, Moulay Idriss, Petchou, Ghazouani (Haddadi), Faras, Tazi.

JANUARY 3

The Three (0) 2 (Jensen, Stein)
The Six (0) 0

The Three: Jennings; Storey, Hughes, Bell (Olsen), Hunter, Moore, Lorimer, Giles, Stein, Charlton, Jensen (Ball).
The Six: Piot (Zoff); Tresor (Suurbier), Vogts, Blakenburg, Beckenbauer (Krol), Neeskens, Grabowski, Van Hanegem (Wimmer), Muller, Netzer, Beretta.

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	10	6	3	1	15	5	15
CS Sfax	10	5	3	2	20	11	23
Club Africain	10	4	5	1	11	9	23
COT	10	4	5	1	10	5	23
Etoile Sahel	10	5	2	3	18	11	22
Sfax RS	10	5	2	3	11	7	22
AS Marsa	10	4	3	3	9	10	21
CA Bizerte	10	4	3	3	10	9	21
EN Mahdia	10	3	4	3	15	11	20
JSK	10	4	2	4	12	11	20
US Monastir	10	2	3	5	5	9	17
Stade Tunisien	10	2	1	7	5	14	15
CSHL	10	1	3	6	9	17	15
US Maghreb	10	0	3	7	6	24	13

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classifi

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	**9**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**15**	**1**	**15**
Besa	9	6	2	1	17	7	14
Lufetari	9	3	4	2	10	6	10
Skenderbeu	8	3	3	2	6	5	9
Flamurtari	9	4	1	4	19	17	9
Labinoti	9	2	5	2	7	10	9
Vlaznja	6	3	2	1	17	7	8
Traktori	8	3	2	3	6	7	8
Beselidhja	9	1	6	2	4	5	8
Partizani	6	2	3	1	8	3	7
Skendbja	9	2	3	4	7	13	7
Lokomotiva	7	1	3	3	5	11	5
17th Nendori	9	2	1	6	5	13	5
Apolonia	9	0	2	7	6	22	2

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finn Harps	**11**	**9**	**2**	**0**	**27**	**9**	**20**
Waterford	11	9	1	1	32	5	19
Bohemians	10	6	2	2	18	11	14
Shamrock Rovers	11	5	3	3	13	13	13
Cork Hibs	10	4	4	2	18	9	12
Limerick	11	5	2	4	14	10	12
Athlone	11	5	1	5	14	14	11
St Patricks	10	3	3	4	10	15	9
Cork Celtic	11	4	1	6	13	20	9
Dromcondra	11	2	5	4	12	20	9
Shelbourne	11	3	1	7	14	18	7
Sligo Rovers	11	3	1	7	11	21	7
Drogheda	10	0	4	6	7	23	4
Dundalk	11	1	2	8	3	18	4

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	**17**	**10**	**4**	**3**	**37**	**18**	**24**
CSKA Sofia	17	10	3	4	40	21	23
Levski Spartak	17	8	5	4	32	16	21
Slavia	17	8	5	4	23	18	21
Spartak	17	8	3	6	28	24	19
Lokomotiv Sofia	17	8	2	7	23	29	18
Pernik	17	5	8	4	14	22	18
Akademik	17	7	3	7	29	19	17
Botev	17	7	3	7	22	29	17
Dunav	17	6	5	6	12	22	17
Beron	16	7	2	7	25	17	16
Trakia	17	6	3	8	22	23	15
Etar	17	5	5	7	22	29	15
Laskov	17	5	4	8	20	26	14
Tchernomorez	17	6	2	9	18	25	14
Tchernomorec	16	5	3	8	25	30	13
ESK Spartak	17	3	6	8	12	27	12
Volov	17	3	4	10	14	23	10

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	**15**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**21**	**5**	**22**
Fenerbahce	15	8	5	2	23	10	21
Eskisehirspor	15	6	7	2	19	10	19
Ankaragucu	15	6	6	3	12	8	18
Besiktas	15	4	10	1	7	4	18
Giresunspor	15	6	5	4	15	12	17
Altay	15	6	4	5	15	10	16
Goriepe	15	5	6	4	15	13	16
Bursaspor	15	3	9	3	10	11	15
Boluspor	15	5	5	5	14	18	15
Mersin	15	3	7	5	12	13	13
PTT	15	2	8	5	11	15	12
Samsunspor	15	3	6	6	12	23	12
Adanaspor	15	3	3	9	10	22	9
Sekerspor	15	1	3	7	5	19	9
Vefa	15	2	4	9	10	18	8

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	**17**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**58**	**7**	**34**
Belenenses	17	9	1	7	33	19	25
Sporting	17	9	3	5	35	19	21
Setubal	17	8	4	5	37	14	20
Guimaraes	17	8	4	5	27	20	20
Boavista	17	8	4	5	27	30	20
Porto	17	8	3	6	23	15	19
Leixoes	17	8	3	6	17	22	10
CUF Barreiro	17	3	4	6	21	21	18
Montijo	17	5	3	9	16	21	13
Farense	17	3	6	8	15	31	12
Barreirense	17	4	4	9	25	42	12
Tomar	17	5	2	10	18	38	12
Beira Mar	17	3	5	9	11	32	11
Coimbra	17	2	5	10	13	32	9
Atletico	17	1	5	11	18	35	7

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	**8**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**24**	**6**	**13**
Coleraine	7	4	1	2	16	19	9
Ards	7	3	3	1	13	8	9
Portadown	7	3	3	1	11	7	9
Glentoran	8	4	1	3	23	10	9
Linfield	8	4	0	4	11	12	8
Glenavon	7	3	1	3	8	11	7
Distillery	8	3	1	4	16	22	7
Cliftonville	7	3	0	4	9	22	6
Ballymena	8	3	0	5	8	14	6
Bangor	7	2	1	4	12	13	5
Larne	8	1	0	7	8	27	2

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	**14**	**7**	**6**	**1**	**20**	**9**	**20**
Inter-Milan	13	8	3	2	17	5	19
Lazio	13	6	7	0	13	6	19
Milan	13	7	4	2	28	14	18
Fiorentino	14	6	5	3	18	14	17
Roma	14	5	5	4	18	14	15
Torino	14	5	4	5	13	10	14
Bologna	14	5	4	5	12	14	14
Napoli	14	3	6	5	8	9	12
Verona	14	2	8	4	12	14	12
Cagliari	14	3	1	5	11	13	12
Atalanta	14	2	8	4	7	15	12
Ternana	14	3	4	7	10	19	10
Palermo	14	3	4	7	5	17	10
Sampdoria	14	1	7	6	5	12	9
Vicenza	13	1	5	7	3	15	7

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	**17**	**14**	**2**	**1**	**40**	**9**	**30**
Ajax	17	14	0	3	60	10	28
Sparta	17	11	3	3	43	15	25
Twente	17	10	2	5	20	12	22
MVV Maastricht	17	9	3	5	28	17	21
Den Haag	17	7	6	4	23	19	20
NEC Nijmegen	17	6	5	6	18	22	17
PSV Eindhoven	17	6	4	7	25	21	16
Amsterdam	17	6	4	7	23	26	16
Utrecht	17	6	4	7	22	30	16
NAC Breda	17	4	7	6	13	24	15
Telstar	17	6	3	8	18	27	15
Haarlem	17	4	5	8	18	23	13
Groningen	17	2	8	7	16	28	12
AZ 67	17	4	4	9	19	38	12
Go Ahead	17	3	5	9	16	27	11
Den Bosch	17	2	5	10	7	33	9
Excelsior	17	1	6	10	5	35	8

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK Salonika	**15**	**12**	**3**	**0**	**31**	**10**	**42**
Olympiakos	15	11	3	1	34	4	40
Panathinaikos	15	11	2	2	40	11	39
Panachaiki	15	7	7	1	20	9	36
AEK Athens	15	7	6	2	17	14	35
Panionios	15	6	6	3	20	11	33
Aris Salonika	15	5	6	4	13	10	31
Ethnikos	15	5	5	5	15	15	30
Kavala	15	5	3	7	14	20	28
Aigaleo	15	5	3	7	13	22	28
Olympiakos Volos	15	4	4	7	15	23	27
Atromitos	15	3	6	6	5	18	27
Iraklis	15	3	5	7	17	23	26
Fostir	15	4	3	8	10	18	26
Kalamata	15	2	6	7	10	19	25
Panserikos	15	1	8	6	11	21	25
Trikala	15	1	4	10	7	22	21
Omonia	15	1	4	10	13	35	21

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	**17**	**10**	**5**	**2**	**24**	**10**	**25**
Atletico Madrid	16	0	4	3	21	11	22
Espanol	17	7	8	2	23	13	22
Real Madrid	17	9	3	5	23	12	21
Malaga	17	7	6	4	20	12	20
Real Sociedad	17	8	3	6	22	22	19
Real Zaragoza	17	6	6	5	19	17	18
Atletico Bilbao	17	6	5	6	22	22	17
Valencia	17	5	6	6	22	19	16
Las Palmas	17	6	4	7	21	25	16
Granada	17	5	6	6	11	16	16
Castellon	17	6	3	8	15	22	15
Gijon	17	5	4	8	17	16	14
Coruna	16	4	5	7	11	25	13
Betis	17	3	7	7	14	17	13
Oviedo	17	3	7	7	15	24	13
Celta Vigo	17	3	6	8	11	18	12
Burgos	17	4	4	9	17	29	12

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	**19**	**12**	**5**	**2**	**45**	**22**	**29**
Nantes	19	11	5	3	34	18	27
Nimes	19	10	4	5	26	17	24
Marseille	19	9	4	6	36	19	22
Nancy	19	8	6	5	27	23	22
St Etienne	19	8	5	6	31	26	21
Angers	19	9	3	7	27	27	21
Bastia	19	8	4	7	31	19	20
Lyon	19	7	6	6	30	34	20
Strasbourg	19	5	9	5	27	28	19
Sochaux	19	7	5	7	26	28	19
Rennes	19	7	4	8	25	27	18
Reims	19	6	6	7	21	25	18
Metz	19	6	6	7	23	31	18
Bordeaux	19	5	7	7	25	26	17
Valenciennes	19	4	6	9	17	29	14
Sedan	19	5	4	10	22	37	14
Ajaccio	19	5	4	10	20	35	14
Red Star	19	4	4	11	15	28	12
Paris FC	19	4	3	12	23	33	11

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	**26**	**17**	**4**	**3**	**50**	**26**	**40**
Arsenal	23	15	7	5	37	25	37
Leeds United	25	14	7	4	47	26	35
Ipswich	26	12	9	5	36	26	33
Derby County	26	12	5	9	33	37	29
Newcastle	26	11	6	9	42	35	28
Tottenham	25	10	6	9	34	30	26
Chelsea	25	8	10	7	34	31	26
Wolverhampton	25	10	6	9	37	36	26
Coventry	26	10	6	10	28	29	26
Southampton	26	8	10	8	26	27	26
West Ham	26	9	7	10	43	36	25
Everton	25	9	6	10	28	25	24
Manchester City	25	9	6	10	35	37	24
Norwich	26	8	7	11	25	38	23
Sheffield United	25	8	5	12	26	38	21
Stoke City	26	6	8	12	38	40	20
Leicester	26	6	8	12	30	39	20
Birmingham	26	5	9	12	31	43	19
West Bromwich	25	6	7	12	24	35	19
Crystal Palace	24	5	8	11	25	32	18
Manchester United	25	5	7	13	23	41	17

MEXICO
Group A

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cruz Azul	**12**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**17**
Puebla	14	6	4	4	16
At Español	14	6	4	4	16
Veracruz	14	4	6	4	14
Universidad	13	4	4	5	12
Pachuca	14	4	3	7	11
Zacatepec	14	1	8	5	10
Monterrey	14	1	8	5	10
Guadalajar	14	2	5	7	9

Group B

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Atlas	**14**	**9**	**2**	**3**	**20**
América	14	4	8	2	16
Toluca	14	4	8	2	16
Torreón	14	5	6	3	16
León	14	5	4	5	14
Jalisco	14	5	4	5	14

Arsenal's Ray Kennedy beats Denis Law of Manchester United to a centre at Highbury.

results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified results ..

San Luis	13	4	5	4	13
Atlanta	14	3	6	5	12
Laguna	14	3	6	5	12

ARGENTINA
Section A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Lorenzo	13	10	3	0	29	6	23
River Plate	13	10	2	1	50	23	22
Velez Sarsfield	13	8	2	3	31	19	18
San Martin (Mendoza)	13	7	3	3	27	21	17
Atlanta	13	6	4	3	31	15	16
Rosario Central	13	5	4	4	28	18	14
Independiente	13	4	5	4	24	20	13
San Lorenzo	13	5	2	6	24	28	12
Lanus	13	3	5	5	17	23	11
Gimnasia y Esgrima	13	3	3	7	13	24	9
San Martin (Tucuman)	11	2	2	9	10	25	6
Bartolome Mitre	13	0	3	10	10	46	3
Independiente (Trelew)	13	0	3	10	10	46	3

Section B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	13	10	2	1	31	15	22
Colon (Santa Fe)	13	8	2	3	21	16	18
Argentinos Juniors	13	7	3	3	26	16	17
Huracan	13	6	4	3	20	20	16
Racing	13	6	1	6	20	18	13
Belgrano (Cordoba)	13	6	5	4	19	18	13
Banfield	13	5	3	5	23	27	13
F.C. Oeste	13	4	4	5	20	20	12
Sportivo Desamparados	13	4	4	5	15	25	12
Chacarita Juniors	13	3	5	5	19	18	11
Gimnasia y Esgrima	13	2	6	5	18	23	10
Estudiantes de La Plata	13	2	4	7	12	23	8
Newell's Old Boys	13	2	1	10	18	28	5

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	15	11	3	1	32	11	25
Standard Liege	15	8	4	3	20	10	20
Racing White	15	5	9	1	19	7	19
Beerschot	15	8	2	5	23	18	18
Anderlecht	15	7	4	4	26	18	18
Malines	15	6	5	4	21	18	17
Lierse	15	6	5	4	24	26	17
CS Bruges	15	6	5	4	17	18	16
Antwerp	15	6	3	6	19	16	15
Beerchem	15	5	4	6	13	13	14
Liege	15	5	4	6	13	16	14
Beringen	15	4	5	6	15	22	13
St Trond	15	2	6	7	9	18	10
Crossing	15	2	5	8	9	18	9
Union St Gilloise	15	1	7	7	7	19	9
Diest	15	2	2	11	12	31	6

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse d'Esch	14	11	2	1	42	12	24
Rumelingen	14	7	5	2	23	19	19
Union	14	6	6	2	33	22	18
Fola Esch	14	6	4	4	29	18	16
Etzella	14	6	4	4	31	31	16
Red Boys	14	6	2	6	32	25	14
Aris	14	5	4	5	18	21	14
The National	14	3	5	6	19	19	11
Spora	14	4	3	7	18	25	11
Avenir	14	5	1	8	21	34	11
Tetingen	14	3	2	9	17	38	8
Sporting	14	2	2	10	17	44	6

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernian	19	14	2	3	53	19	30
Rangers	20	13	3	4	36	18	29
Celtic	17	13	2	2	48	18	28
Dundee	20	10	5	5	36	23	25
Dundee United	20	12	1	7	39	34	25
Aberdeen	19	9	6	4	38	23	24
Hearts	20	11	2	7	31	26	24
Ayr United	20	7	6	7	27	36	20
East Fife	20	9	1	10	29	36	19
St Johnstone	18	6	5	7	31	34	17
Morton	19	5	6	8	27	32	16
Falkirk	18	3	9	6	22	30	15
Motherwell	19	5	5	9	21	32	15
Arbroath	20	5	5	10	27	38	15
Partick Thistle	20	6	2	12	24	36	14
Dumbarton	19	3	7	9	24	37	13
Kilmarnock	19	3	4	12	22	41	10
Airdrie	19	1	5	13	19	41	7

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	17	13	1	3	45	14	27
Fortuna Dusseldorf	17	10	5	2	40	25	25
Wuppertaler	17	8	5	4	30	16	21
VfB Stuttgart	17	10	1	6	36	26	21
1FC Cologne	17	8	5	4	33	24	21
MSV Duisberg	17	7	6	4	26	17	20
Kaiserslautern	17	6	6	5	27	26	18
Bor. Moenchengladbach	17	8	2	7	35	35	18
Kickers Offenbach	17	7	4	6	31	31	18
Eintracht Frankfurt	17	7	3	7	32	27	17
VfL Bochum	17	7	3	7	24	30	17
Hannover 96	17	5	4	8	25	36	14
Hertha Berlin	17	5	4	8	25	38	14
Werder Bremen	17	3	6	8	17	24	12
FC Schalke 04	17	5	2	10	24	36	12
Eint. Braunschweigt	17	5	2	10	13	26	12
Rot-Weiss Oberhausen	17	4	2	11	19	40	10
Hamburger SV	17	2	5	10	22	33	9

1972 RESULTS

JANUARY
Spain 1, Hungary 0
Morocco 2, Rumania 4

FEBRUARY
Northern Ireland 1, Italy 1
Greece 0, Holland 5
Northern Ireland 1, Spain 1
Israel 2, Norway 1

MARCH
Algeria 1, Malta 0
Greece 2, Italy 1
Bulgaria 1, Russia 1
Hungary 0, West Germany 2
Portugal 4, Cyprus 0

APRIL
Mexico 2, Peru 1
Czechoslovakia 2, Austria 0
Poland 2, East Germany 1
Rumania 2, France 0
Russia 2, Peru 0
Brazil 3, Paraguay 2
Czechoslovakia 6, Luxembourg 0
Scotland 2, Peru 0
Switzerland 1, Sweden 1
England 1, West Germany 3
Hungary 1, Rumania 1
Italy 0, Belgium 0
Yugoslavia 0, Russia 0
Austria 4, Malta 0

MAY
Holland 3, Peru 0
Poland 0, Switzerland 0
Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
West Germany 0, England 0
Hungary 3, Malta 0
Russia 3, Yugoslavia 0
Belgium 2, Italy 1
Rumania 2, Hungary 2
Sweden 1, Czechoslovakia 2
Hungary 2, Rumania 1
Belgium 4, Iceland 0
Scotland 3, Northern Ireland 0
Wales 0, England 3
Spain 2, Uruguay 0
England 0, Northern Ireland 1
Iceland 0, Belgium 4
Scotland 1, Wales 0
Scotland 0, England 1
Sweden 0, Hungary 0
Wales 0, N. Ireland 0
Greece 0, Spain 0
West Germany 4, Russia 1
Finland 0, Norway 0
East Germany 1, Uruguay 0
East Germany 0, Uruguay 0

JUNE
Denmark 3, Finland 0
Peru 0, Colombia 0
Russia 1, Bulgariia 0
Austria 2, Sweden 0
Belgium 1, West Germany 2
Russia 1, Hungary 0
Norway 0, Uruguay 1
Belgium 2, Hungary 1
Rumania 3, Italy 3
West Germany 3, Russia 0
Bulgaria 1, Italy 1
Finland 1, Albania 0
Sweden 2, Denmark 0

JULY
Iceland 2, Denmark 5
Argentina 7, Central America 0
Africa 3, Colombia 0
Argentina 4, Colombia 1
France 5, Central America 0
Argentina 2, Africa 0
France 2, Africa 0
France 3, Colombia 2
France 0, Argentina 0
Iran 1, Chile 2
Portugal 2, Eire 1
Chile 2, Eire 1
Iran 1, Ecuador 1
Chile 1, Portugal 4
Eire 3, Ecuador 2
Chile 2, Ecuador 1
Portugal 3, Iran 0
Eire 2, Iran 1
Portugal 3, Ecuador 0
Paraguay 6, Bolivia 1
Yugoslavia 2, Peru 1
Yugoslavia 2, Paraguay 1
Venezuela 2, Bolivia 2
Venezuela 0, Peru 1
Bolivia 1, Yugoslavia 1
Peru 0, Paraguay 1
Yugoslavia 10, Venezuela 0
Peru 3, Bolivia 0
Paraguay 4, Venezuela 1
Brazil 1, Scotland 0
Brazil 0, Czechoslovakia 0
Scotland 0, Czechoslovakia 0
Brazil 3, Yugoslavia 0
Scotland 2, Yugoslavia 2
Czechoslovakia 1, Yugoslavia 2
Portugal 1, Uruguay 1
Russia 1, Uruguay 0
Portugal 3, Argentina 1
Russia 0, Argentina 1
Portugal 1, Russia 0
Uruguay 0, Argentina 1
Yugoslavia 4, Argentina 2
Brazil 1, Portugal 0
Finland 1, Russia 1

AUGUST
Norway 4, Iceland 1
Sweden 4, Russia 4
Costa Rica 1, Mexico 0
Peru 3, Mexico 2
Canada 0, Mexico 1
Czechoslovakia 1, Holland 2

SEPTEMBER
Greece 1, France 3
Rumania 1, Austria 1
Mexico 2, Canada 1
Norway 1, Sweden 3
Italy 3, Yugoslavia 1
Finland 1, Rumania 1

OCTOBER
Norway 0, Belgium 2
Denmark 1, Switzerland 1
Algeria 1, Turkey 0
Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
East Germany 5, Finland 0
England 1, Yugoslavia 1
Spain 1, Argentina 0
Mexico 2, Costa Rica 1
France 2, Russia 0
Poland 3, Czechoslovakia 0
Austria 2, Hungary 2
Sweden 7, Malta 0
Denmark 1, Scotland 4
Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
Eire 1, Russia 2
Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
Switzerland 0, Italy 0
Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
Peru 0, Argentina 2
Rumania 2, Albania 0

NOVEMBER
Holland 9, Norway 0
Czechoslovakia 1, East Germany 3
West Germany 5, Switzerland 1
Wales 0, England 1
Scotland 2, Denmark 0
Eire 2, France 1
Belgium 0, Holland 0
Cyprus 0, Bulgaria 4
Yugoslavia 1, Greece 0
Malta 0, Austria 2

DECEMBER
Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0

WORLD CUP 1974

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

Kenya 3, Mauritius 1
Mauritius 2, Kenya 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0 v. Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary v. Austria
24. 5.73 Sweden v. Austria
13. 6.73 Hungary v. Sweden
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy v. Turkey
25. 2.73 Turkey v. Italy
31. 3.73 Italy v. Luxembourg
8. 4.73 Luxembourg v. Switzerland
9. 5.73 Switzerland v. Turkey
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0 v. Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland v. Norway
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany v. Albania
6. 5.73 Albania v. Rumania
27. 5.73 Rumania v. East Germany
6. 6.73 Finland v. East Germany
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0 v. England 1
17.10.73 England v. Poland
6. 6.73 Poland v. England
24. 1.73 England v. Wales
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales
28. 3.73 Wales v. Poland

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0 v. Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus v. Northern Ireland
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland v. Portugal
2. 5.73 Bulgaria v. Portugal
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1 v. Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece v. Spain
21. 2.73 Spain v. Greece
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2 v. Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark v. Czechoslovakia
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia v. Denmark
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechoslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2 v. France 1
13. 5.73 USSR v. Eire
19. 5.73 France v. Eire
26. 5.73 USSR v. France

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia v. Ecuador
24. 6.73 Colombia v. Uruguay
28. 6.73 Ecuador v. Columbia
1. 7.73 Ecuador v. Uruguay
5. 7.73 Uruguay v. Colombia
8. 7.73 Uruguay v. Ecuador

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay

Group 3

31. 3.73 Venezuela v. Peru
12. 4.73 Peru v. Venezuela
15. 4.73 Chile v. Venezuela
24. 4.73 Venezuela v. Chile
3. 5.73 Chile v. Peru
17. 5.73 Peru v. Chile

ZEKO ZELEV
F.C. BEROE BULGARIA

POLAND